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Lee

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(54) **METHOD OF FORMING ISOLATION FILMS
IN SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES**

(75) Inventor: **Won Kwon Lee**, Chungjoo-Shi (KR)

(73) Assignee: **Hynix Semiconductor Inc.**,
Kyungki-Do (KR)

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
H01L 21/76 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **438/424; 438/425; 438/426**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 438/424-431,
438/689-693, 717, 719, 723-725
See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner—Duy-Vu N Deo

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Marshall, Gerstein & Borun
LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is a method of forming the isolation film in the
semiconductor device which can prevent concentration of an
electric field by forming a dual slant angle at the top corner
of the trench in the course of forming the trench. After a
photoresist pattern containing silicon components or an
amorphous silicon film is formed on a pad oxide film instead
of a pad nitride film, the surface of the photoresist pattern or
the amorphous silicon film is oxidized so that the oxidized
portion is fused with the isolation film. Accordingly, it is
possible to prevent generation of a moat in the course of
removing the photoresist pattern and the pad oxide film after
the trench is buried with an insulating material. Therefore,
the disclosed method can improve reliability of the process
and an electrical characteristic of the resulting device.

18 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

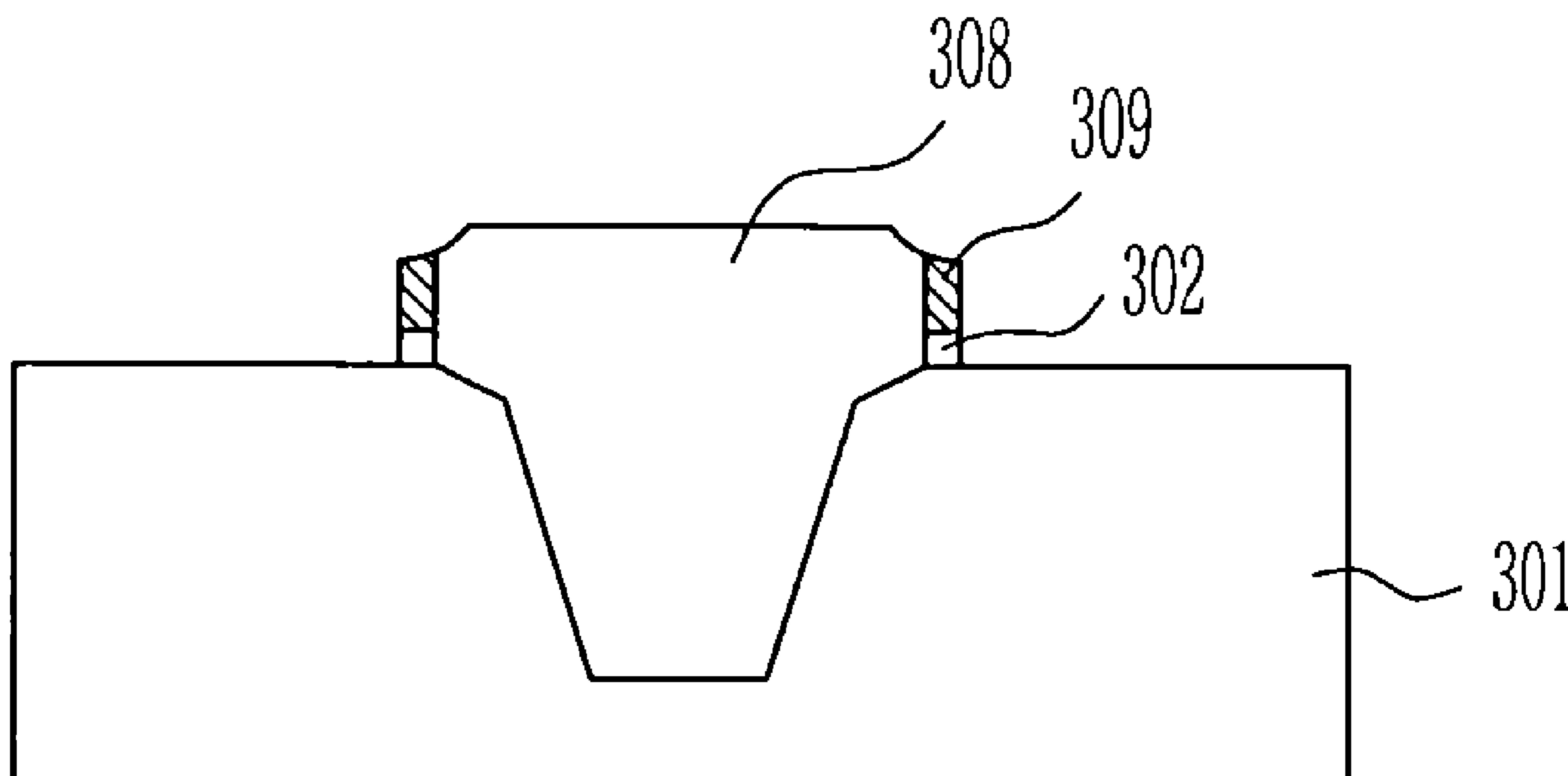


FIG. 1A

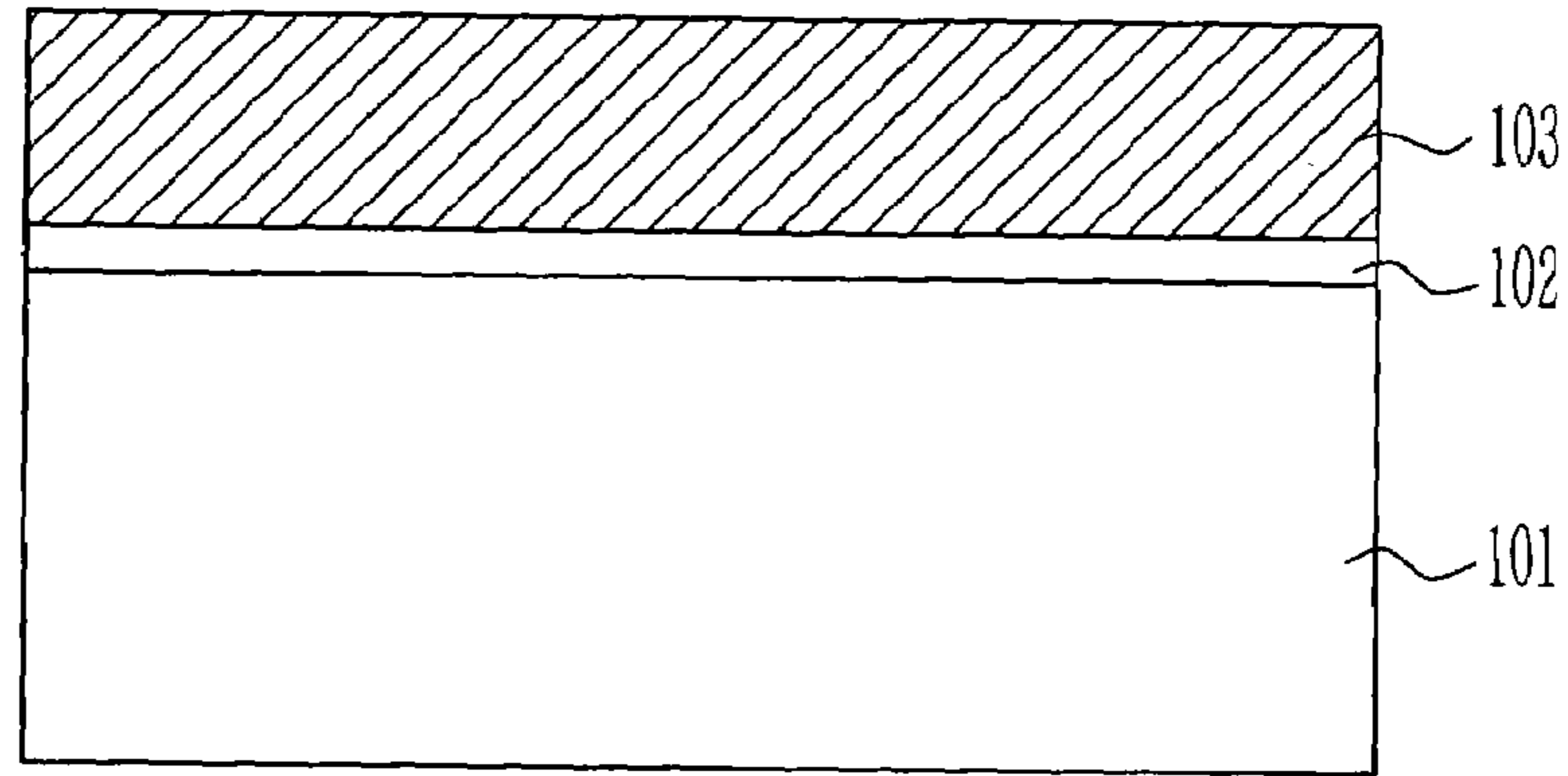


FIG. 1B

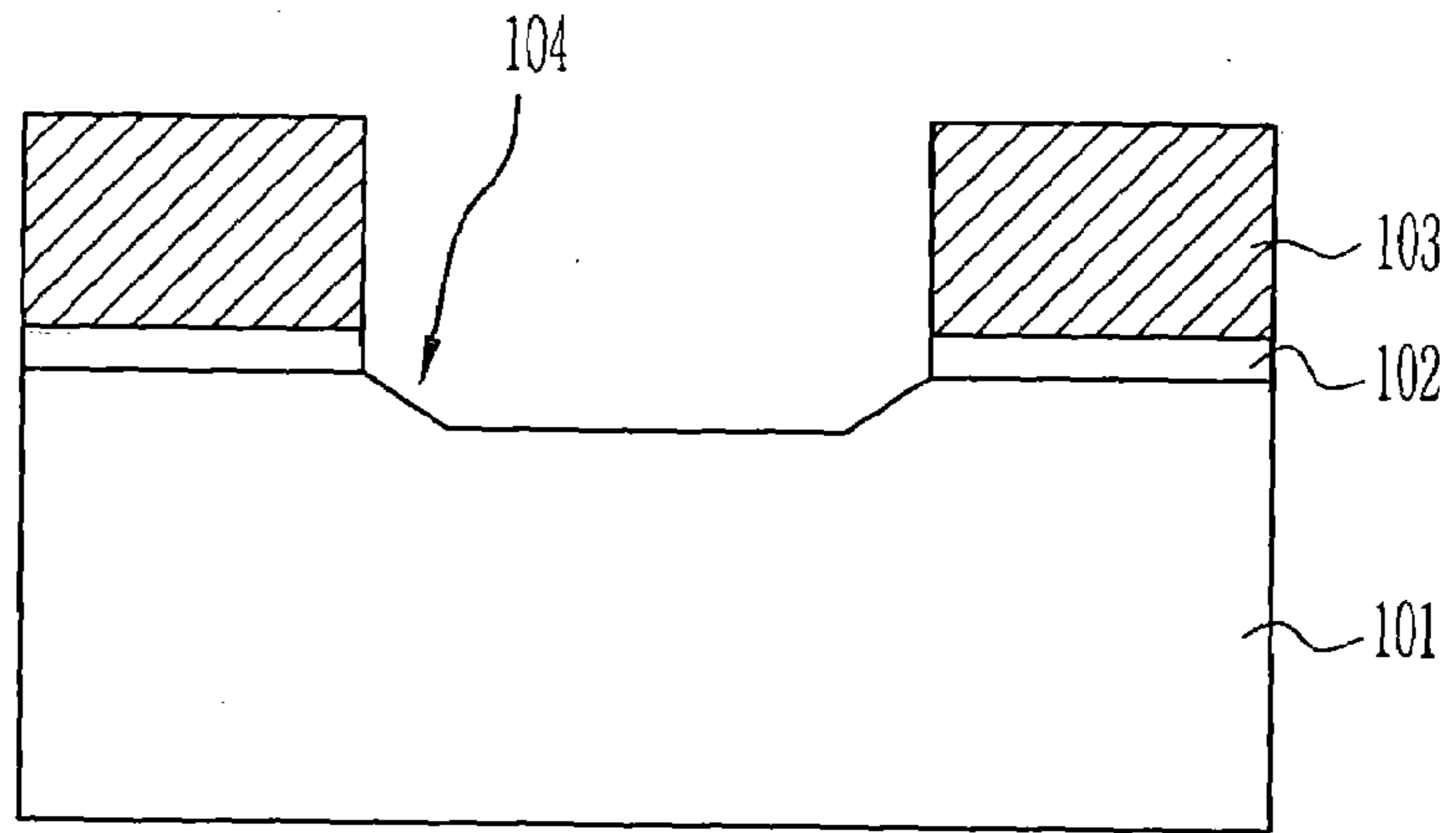


FIG. 1C

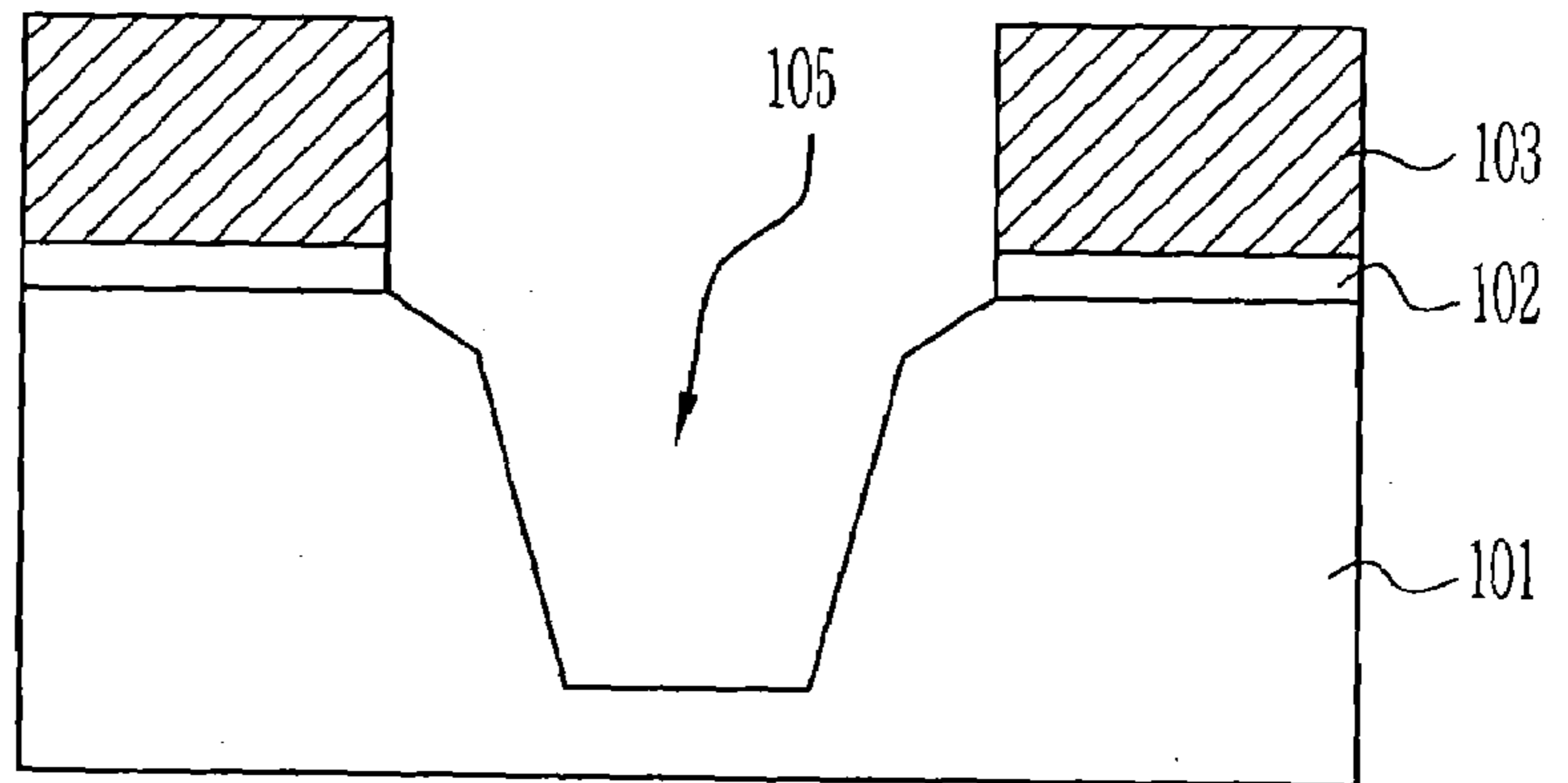


FIG. 1D

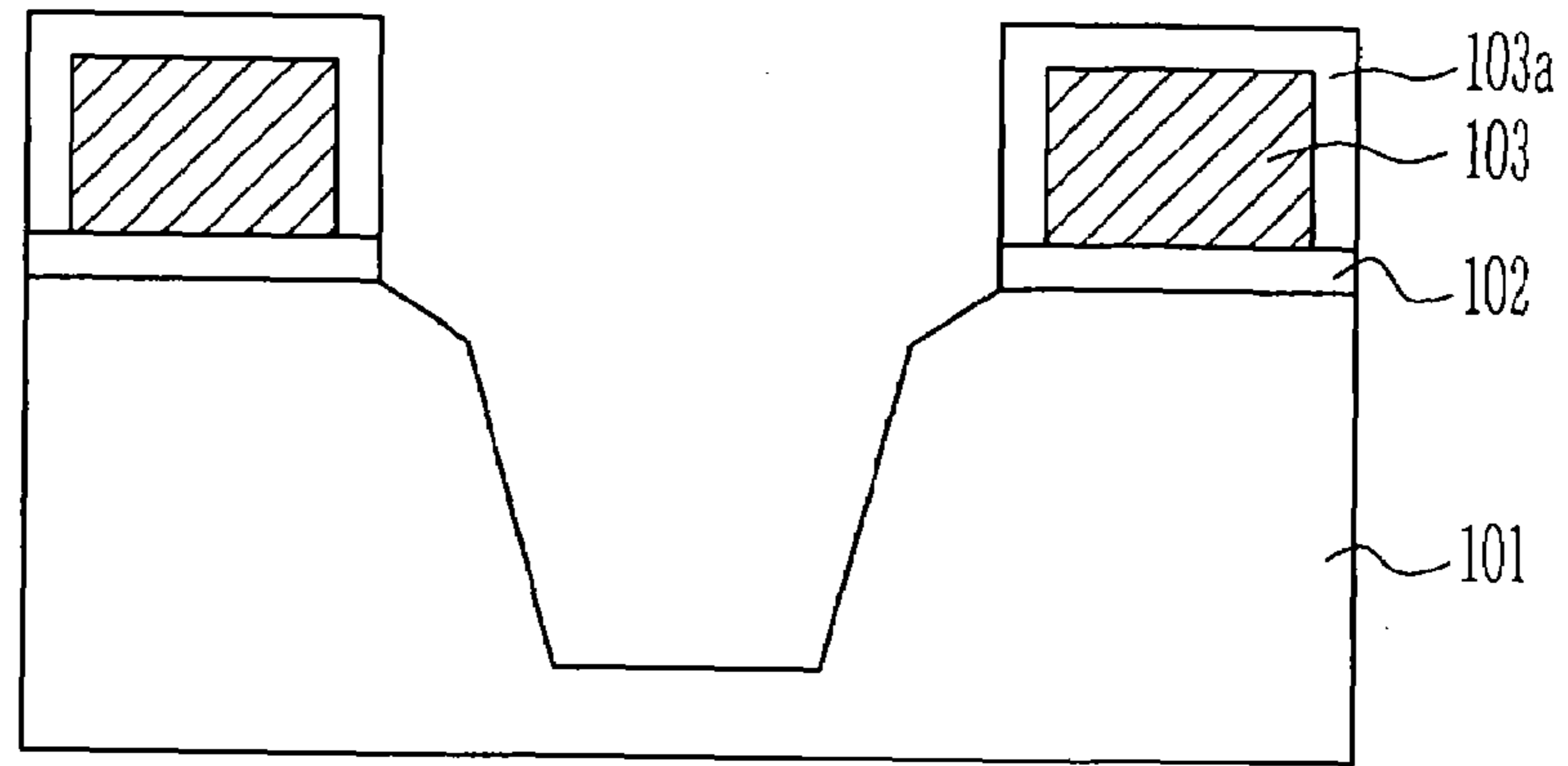


FIG. 1E

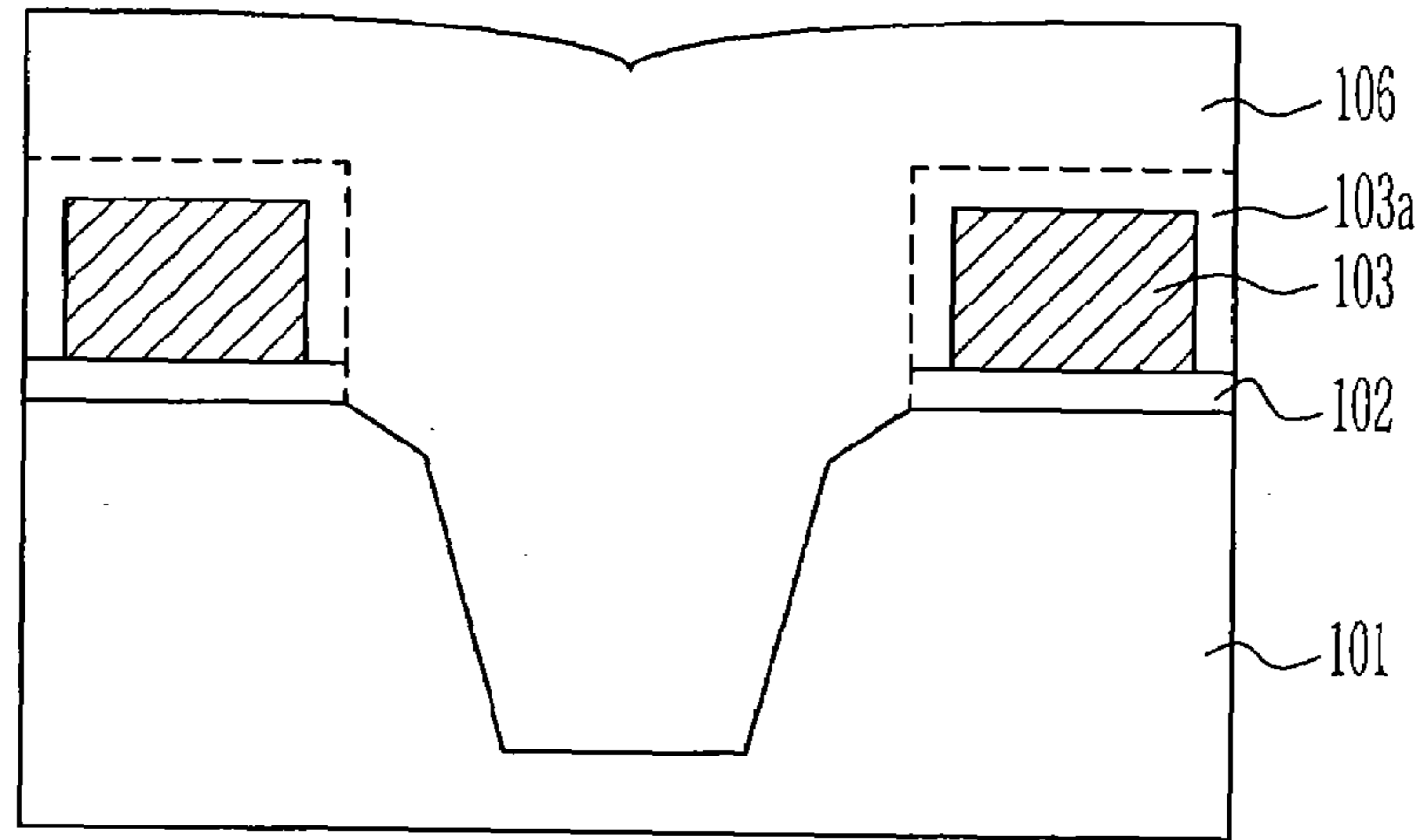


FIG. 1F

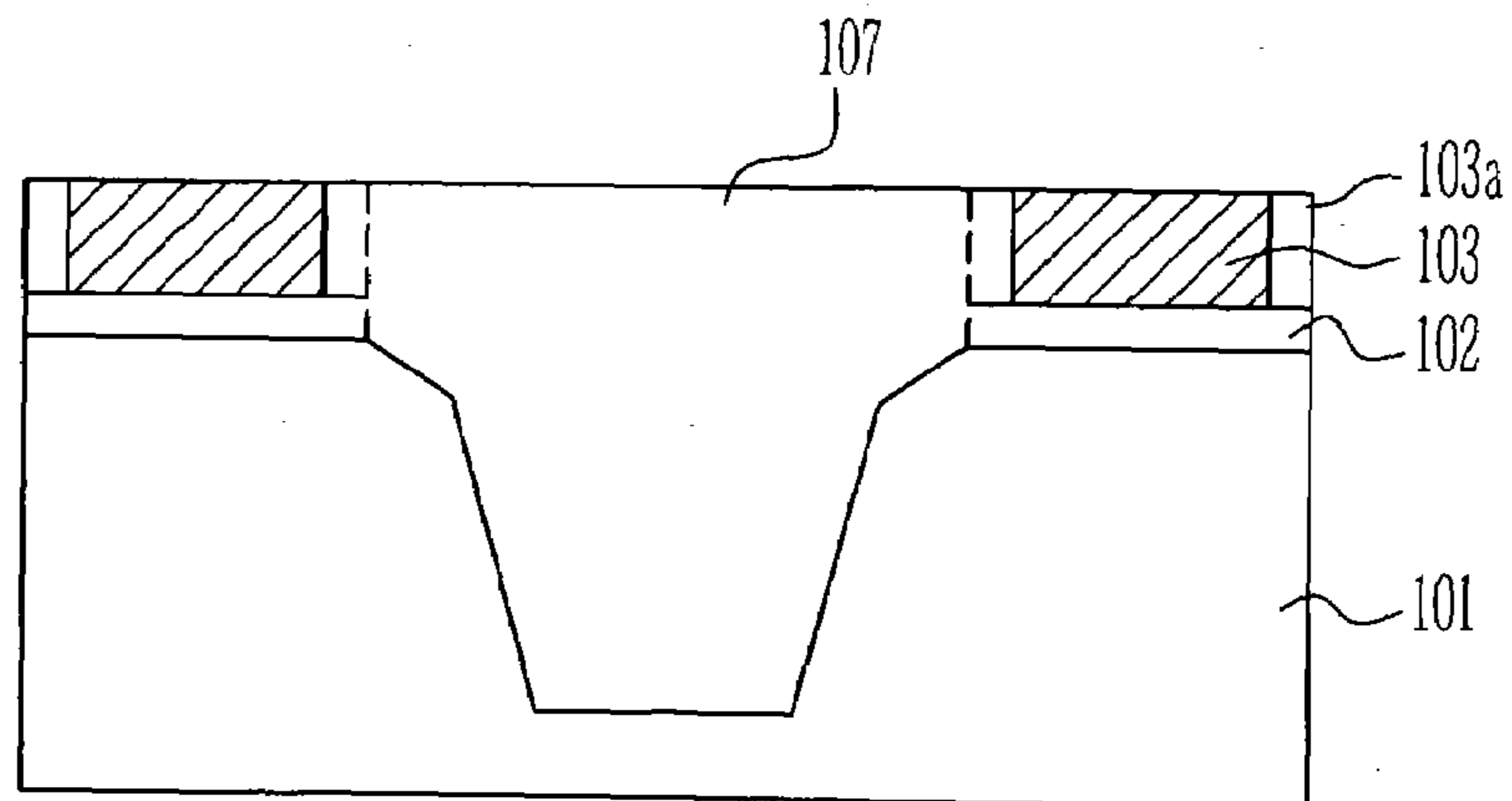


FIG. 1G

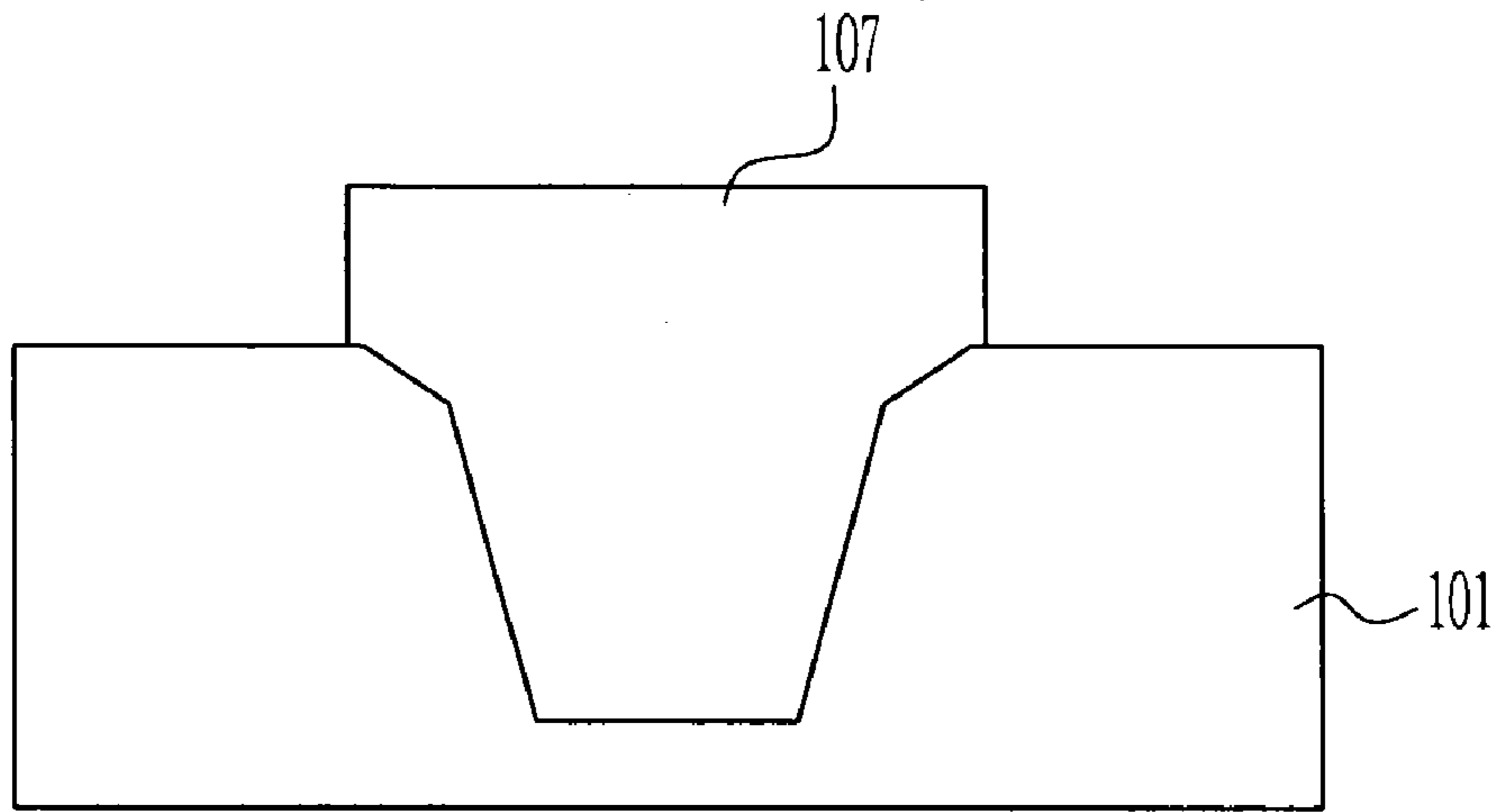


FIG. 1H

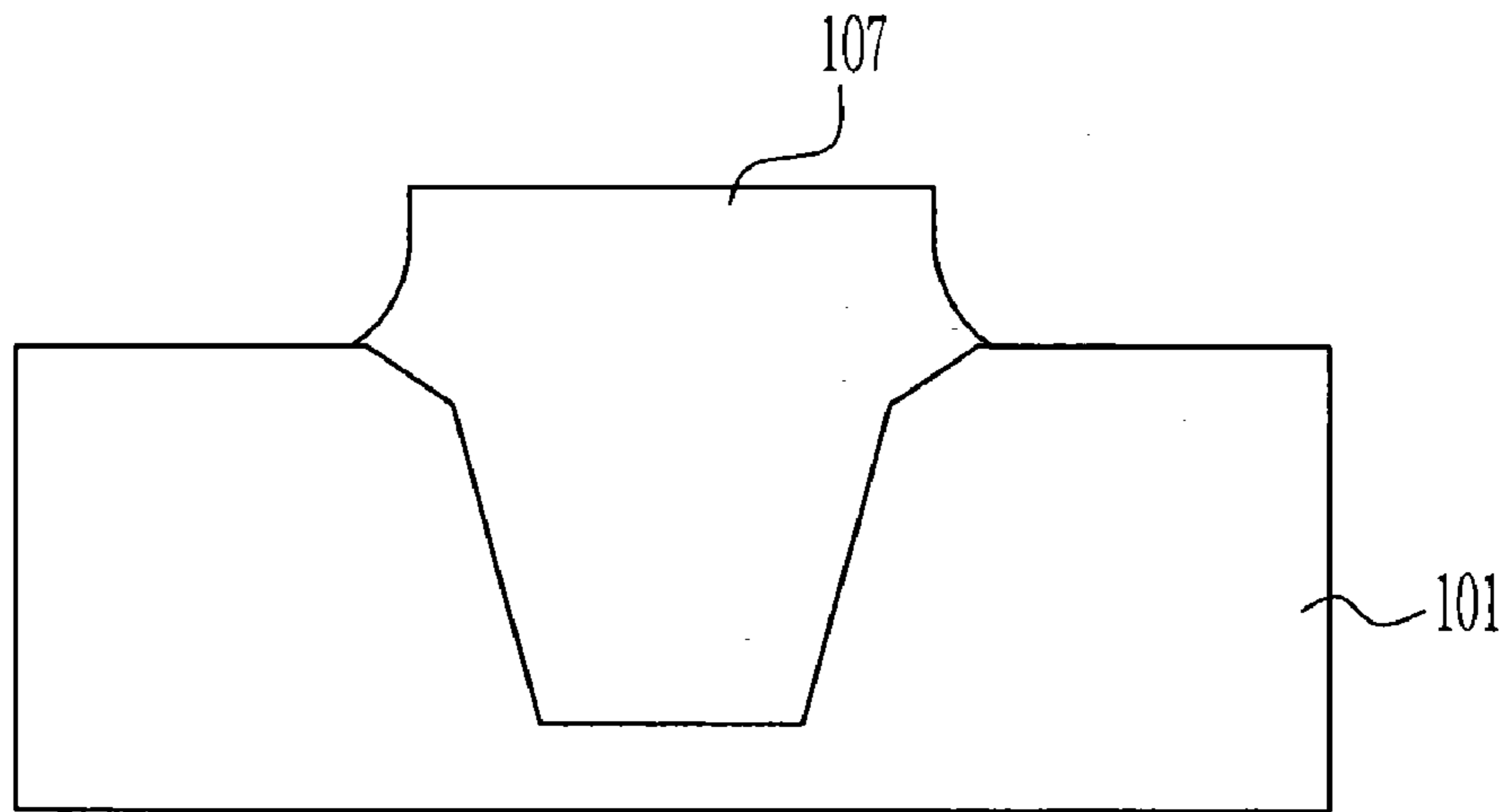


FIG. 2A

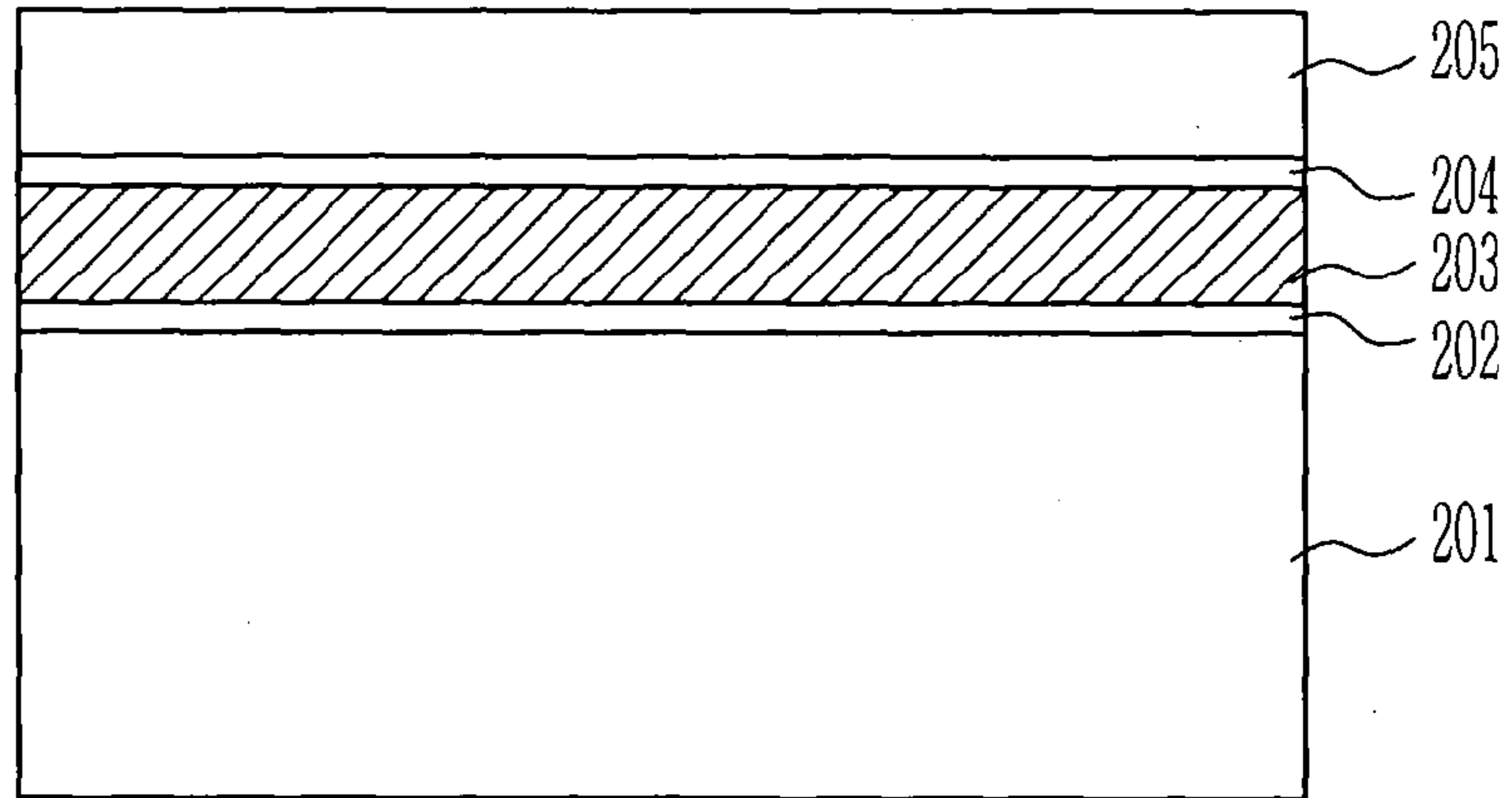


FIG. 2B

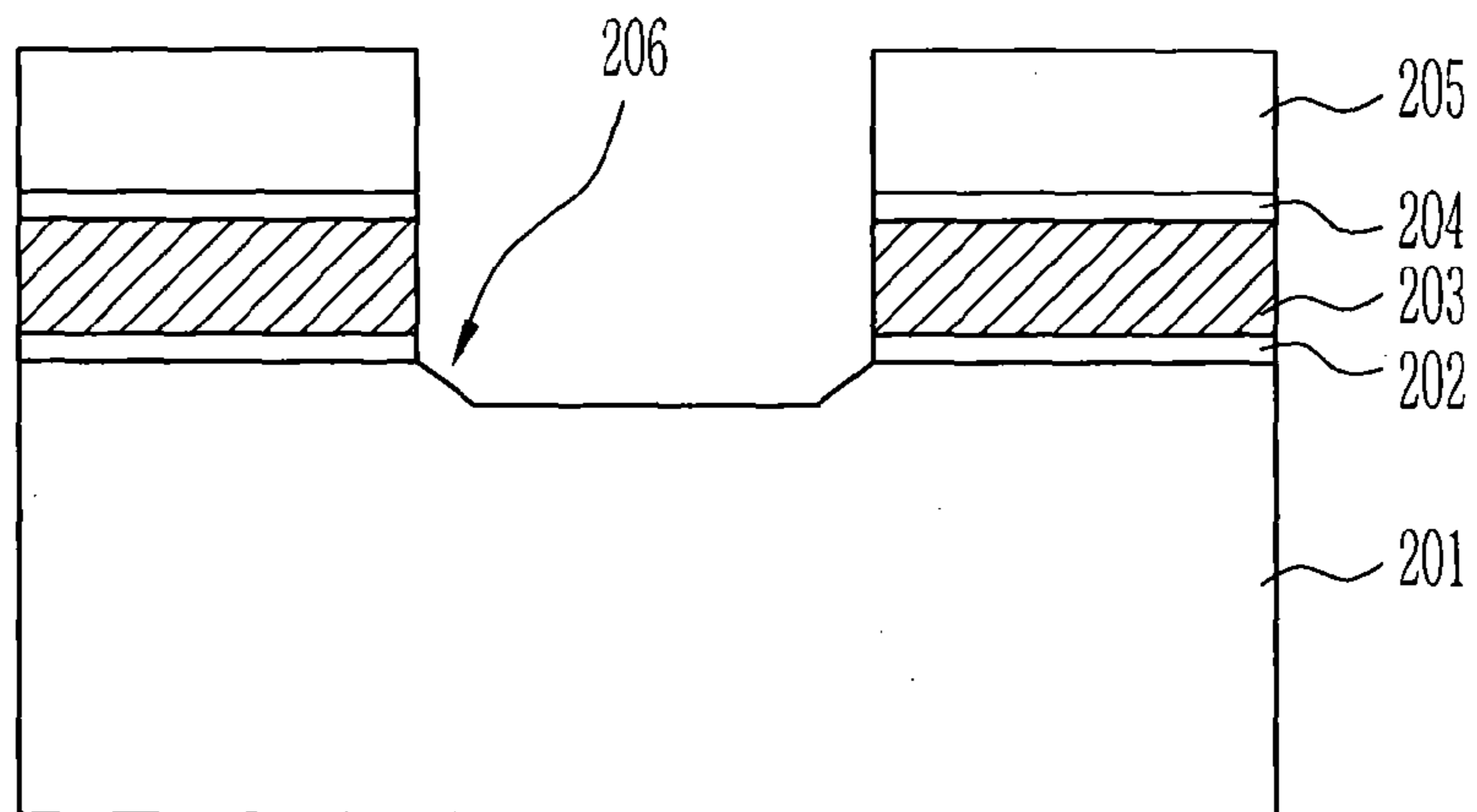


FIG. 2C

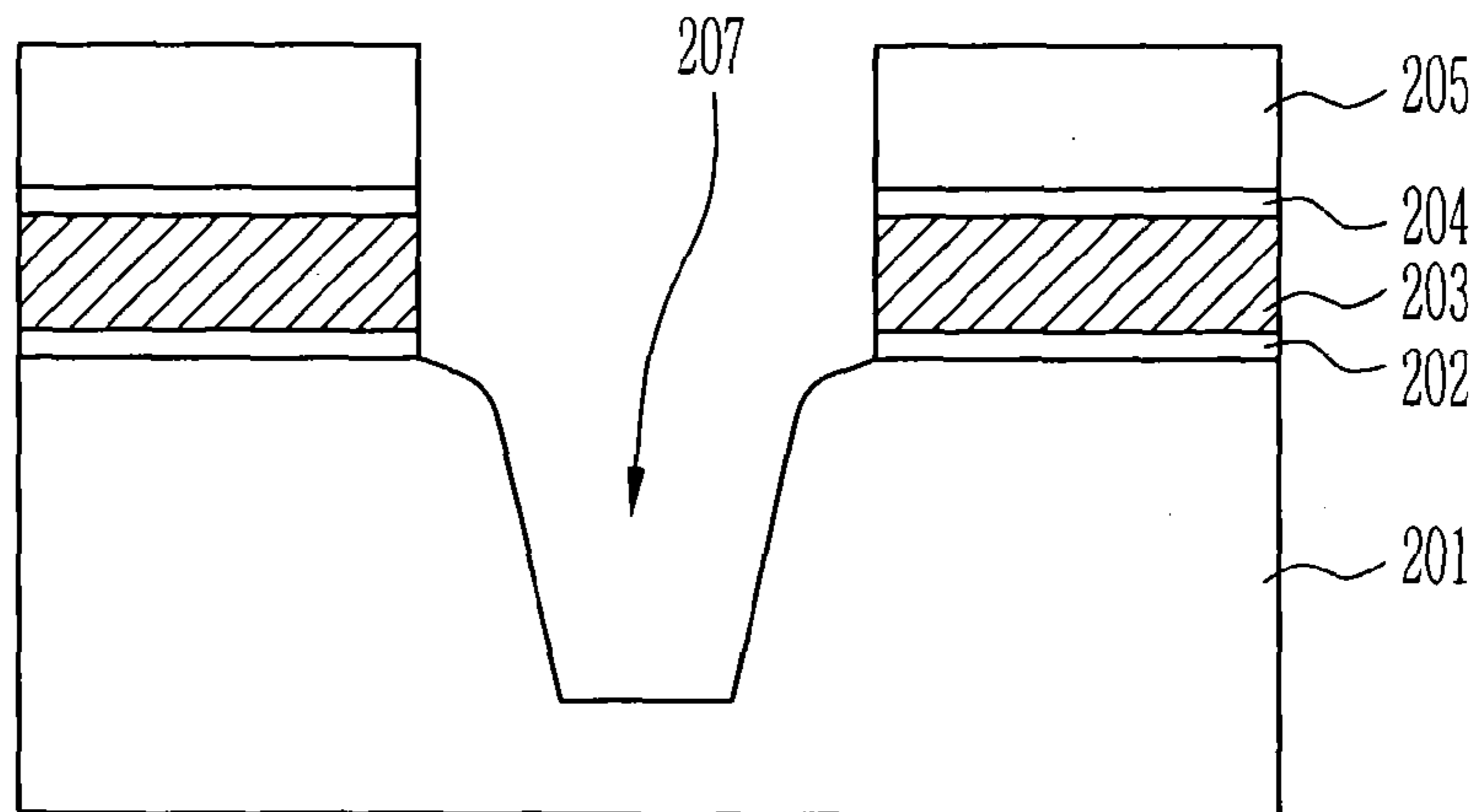


FIG. 2D

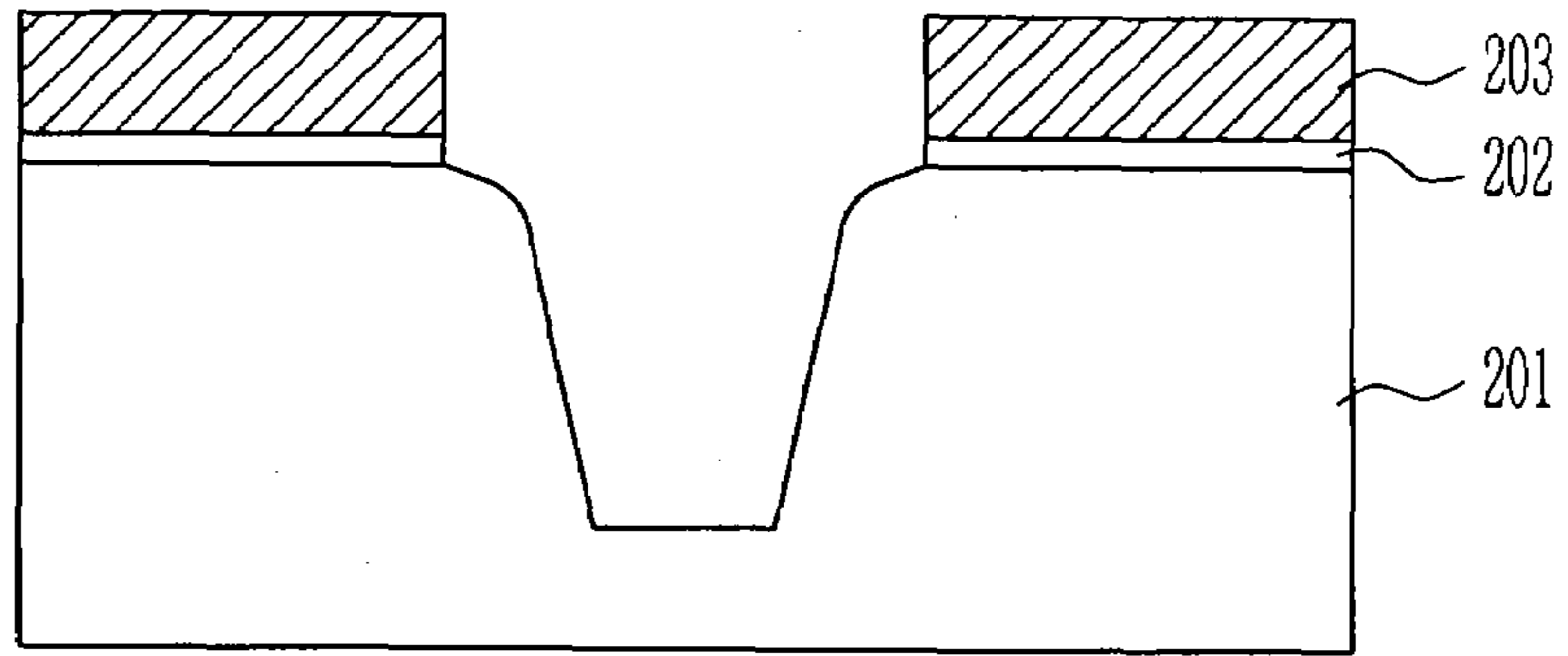


FIG. 2E

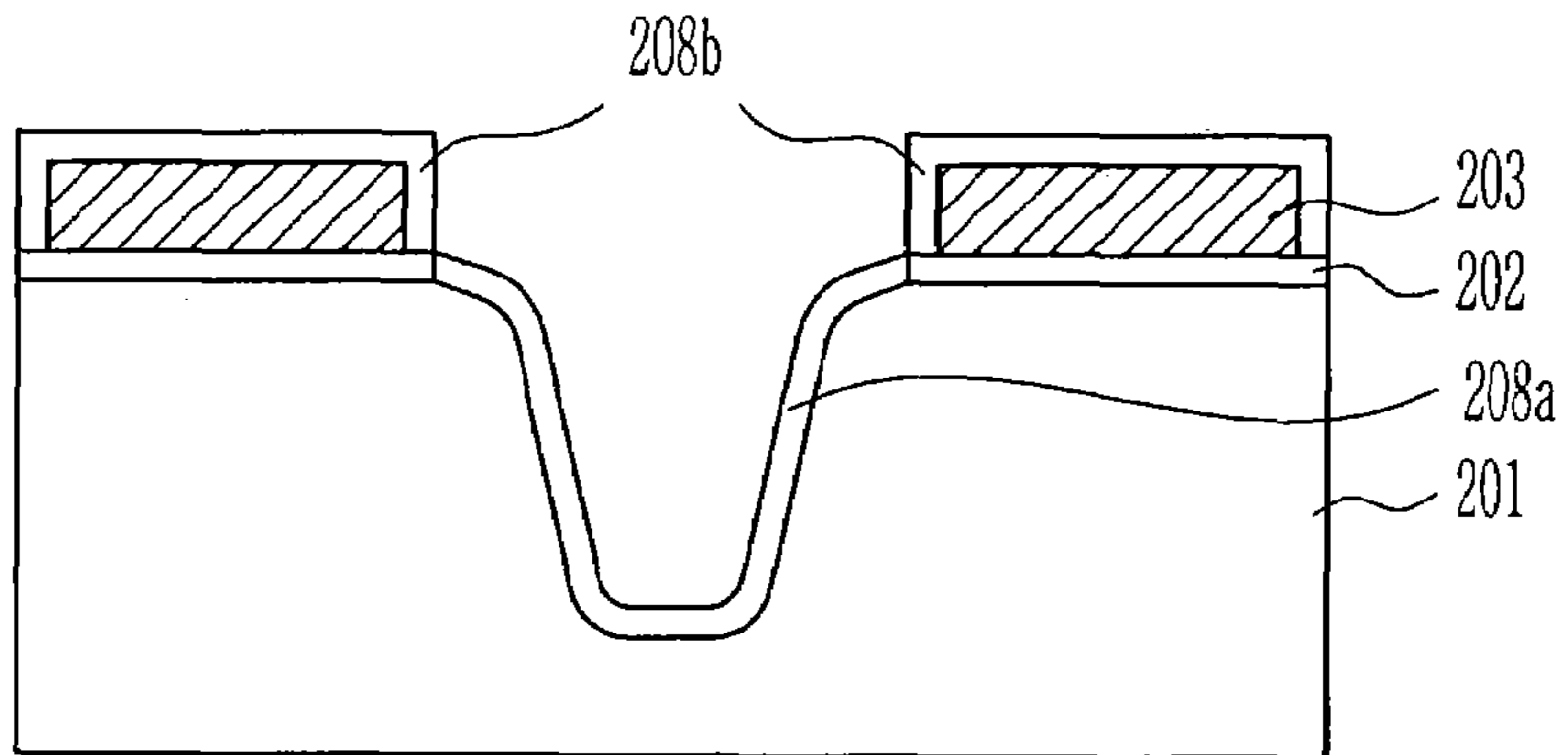


FIG. 2F

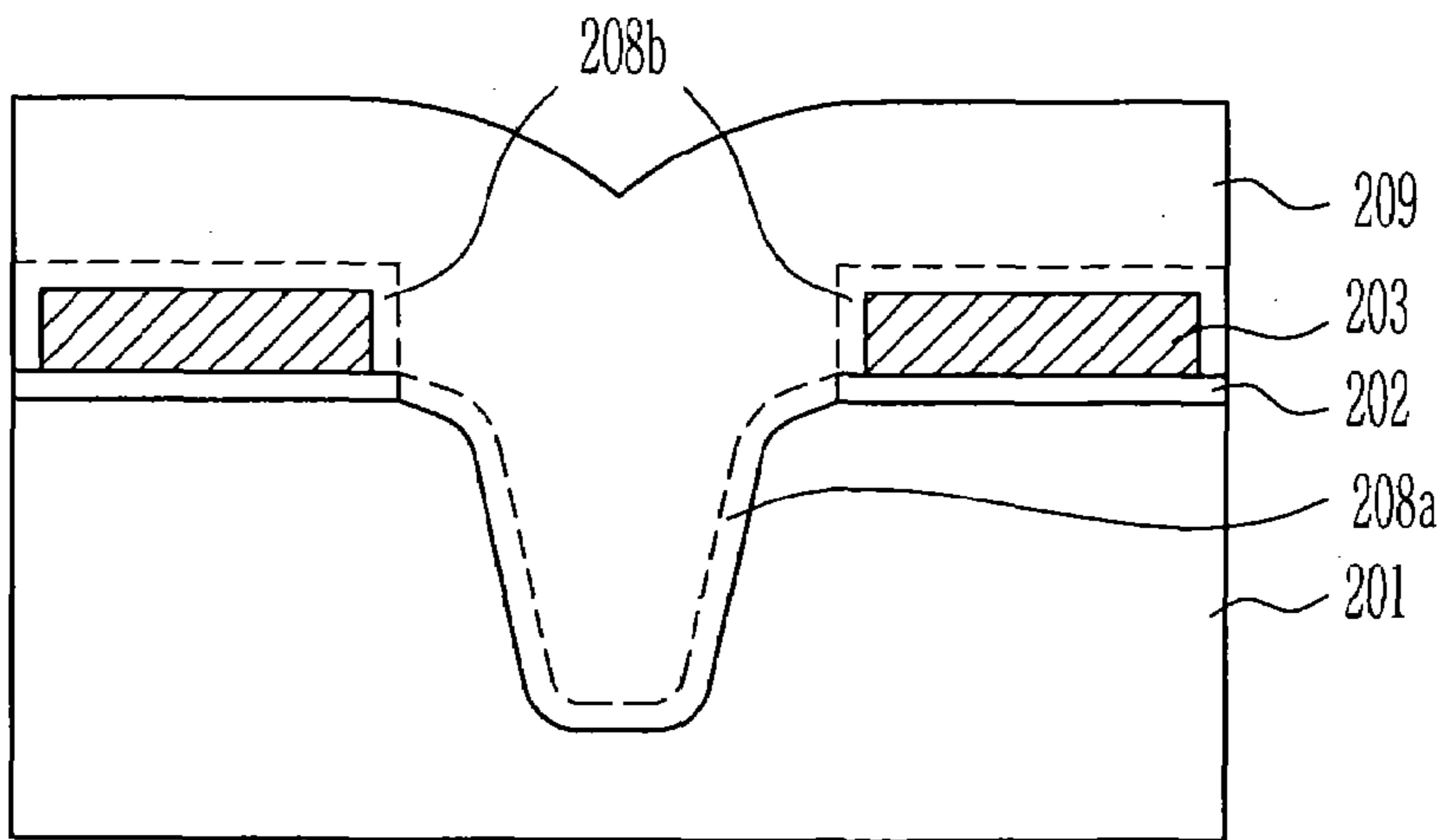


FIG. 2G

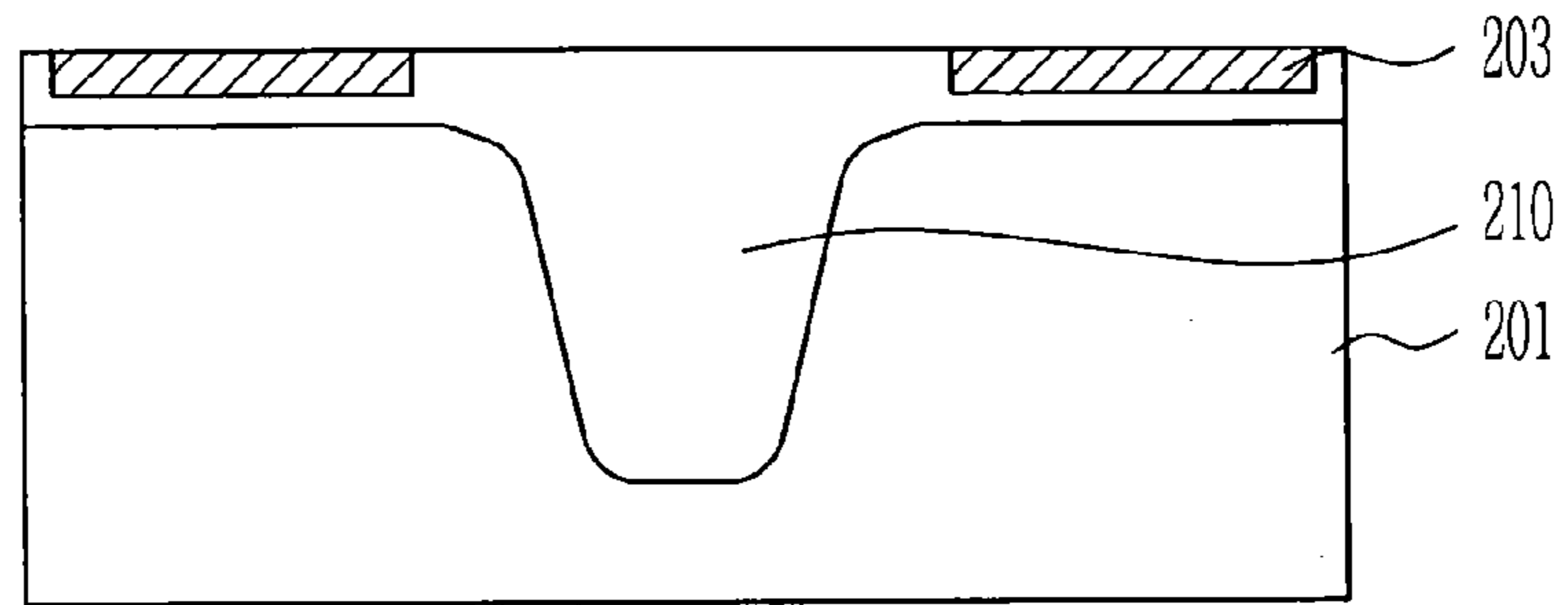


FIG. 2H

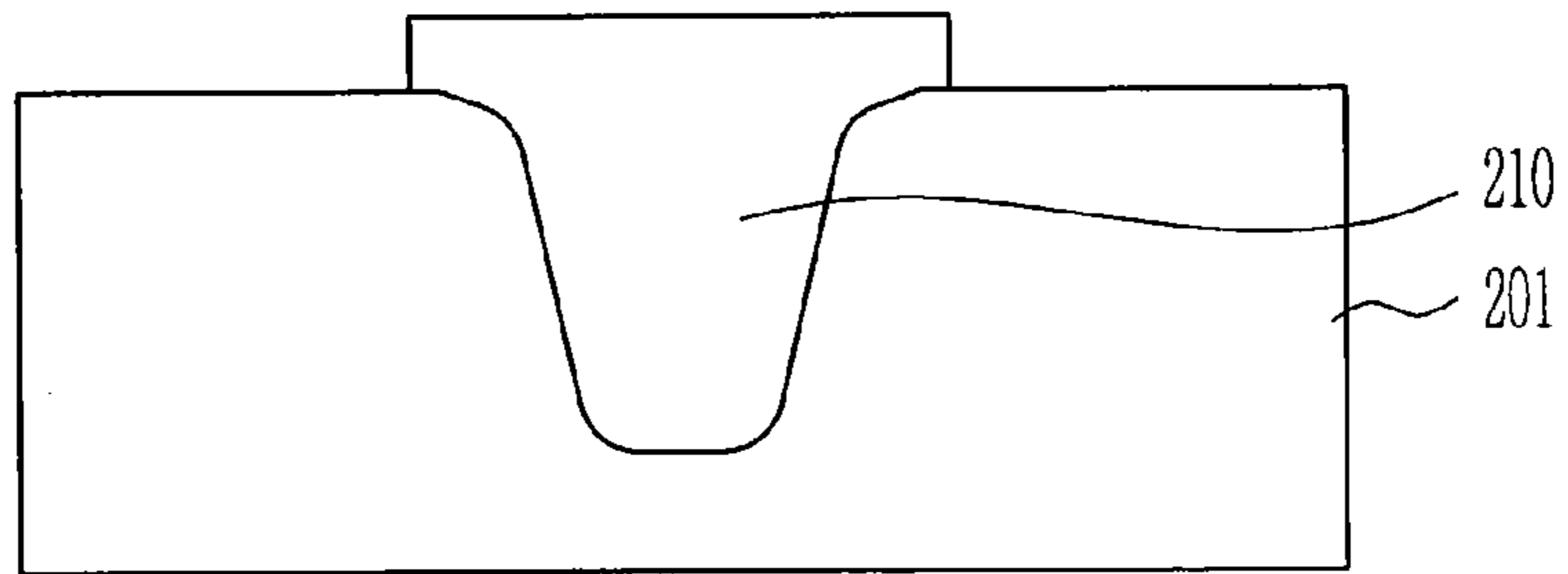


FIG. 2I

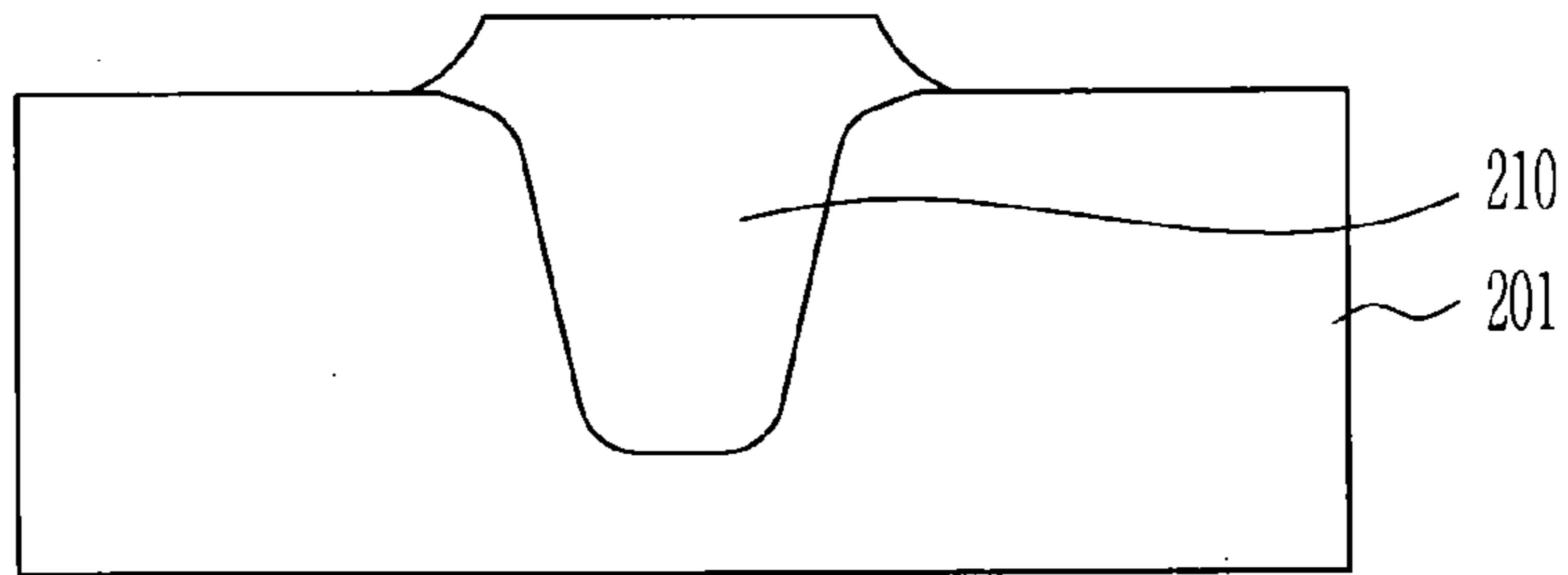


FIG. 3A

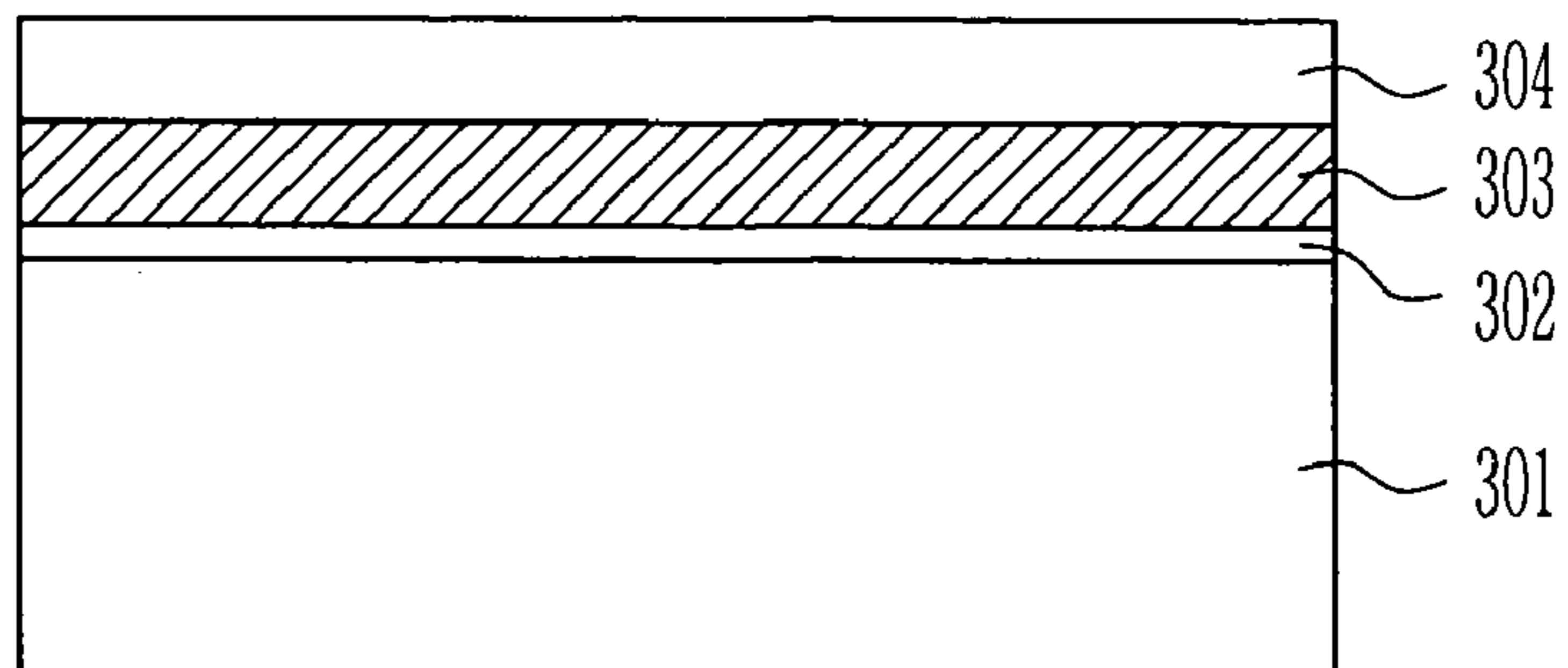


FIG. 3B

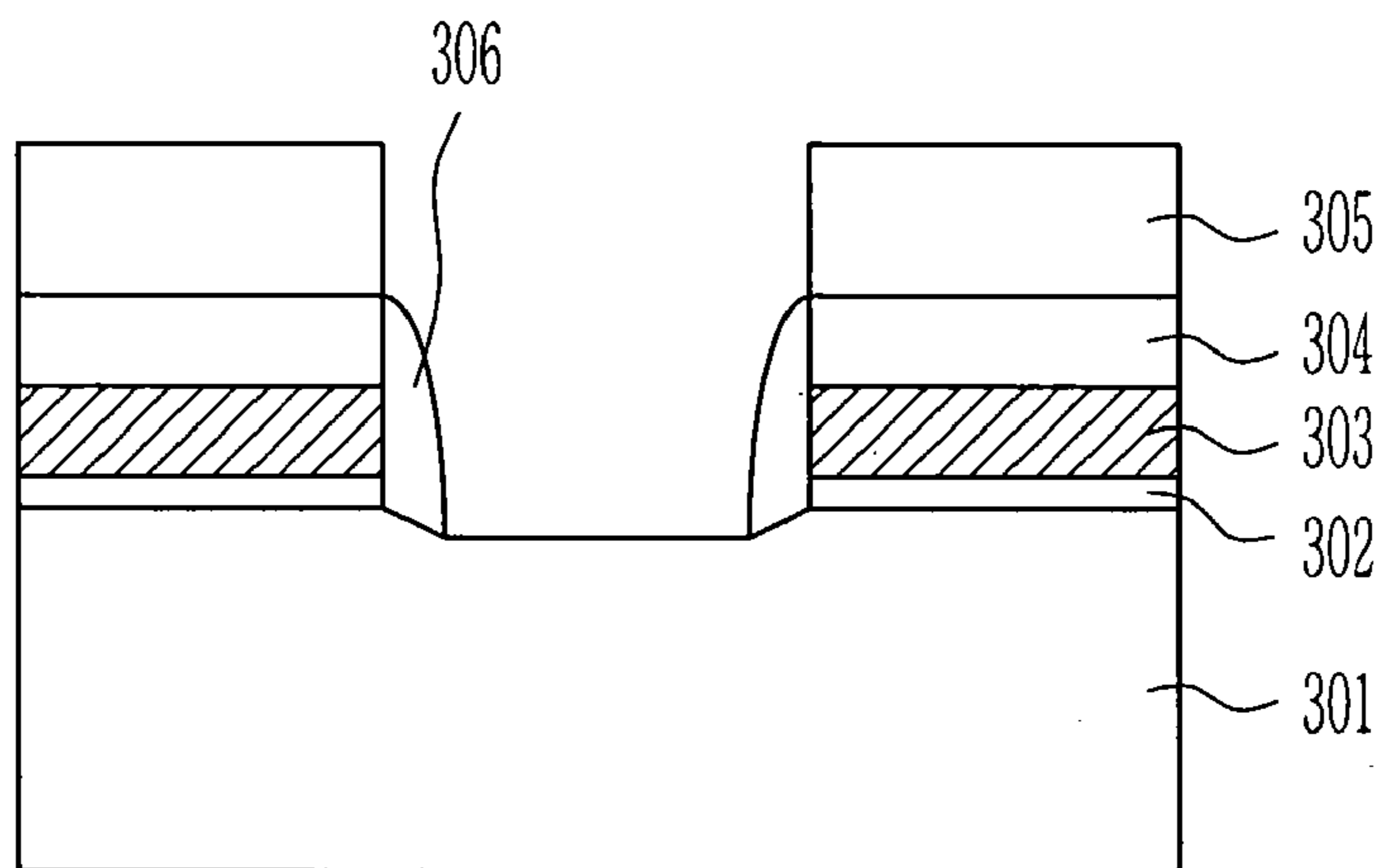


FIG. 3C

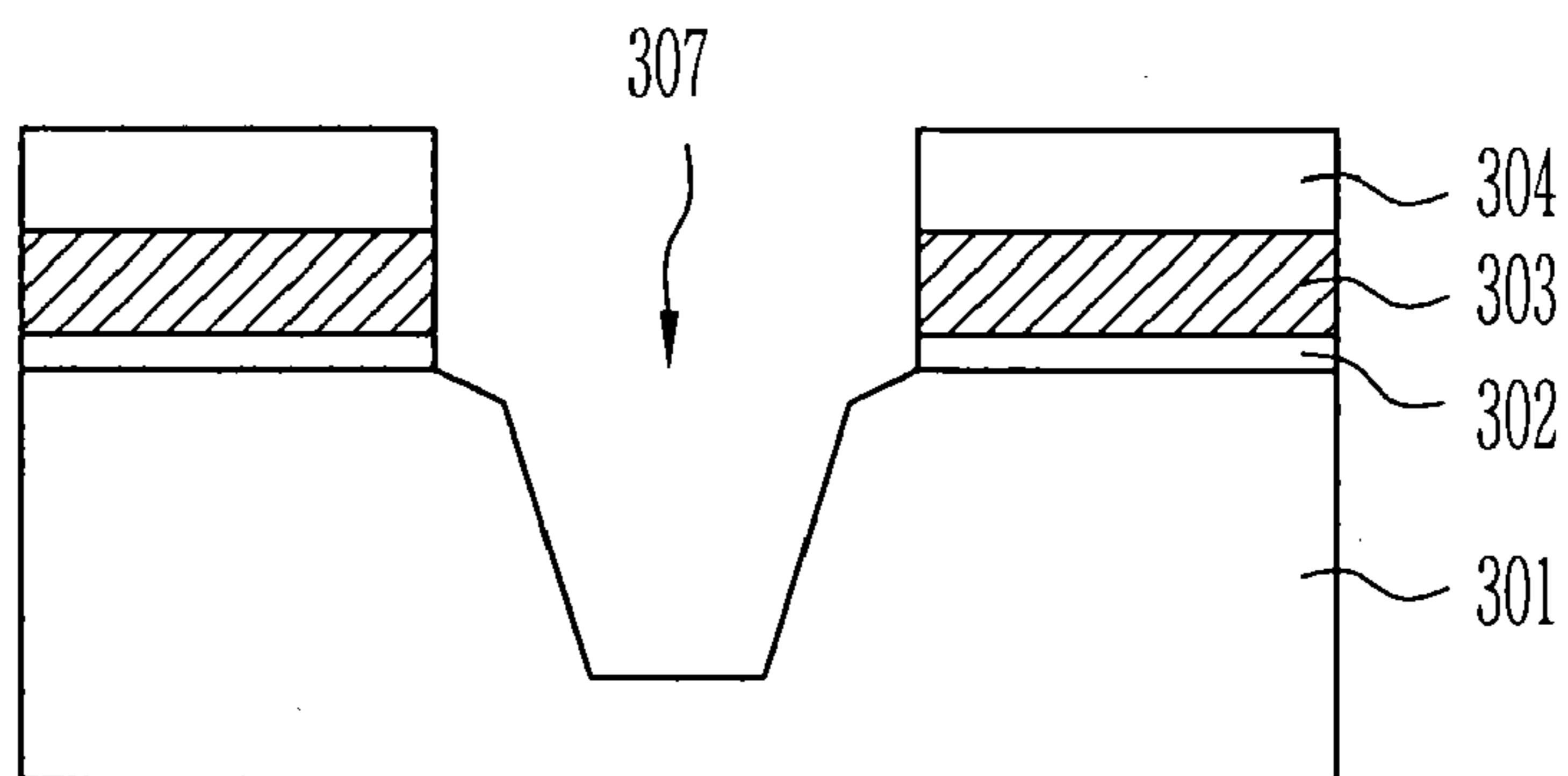


FIG. 3D

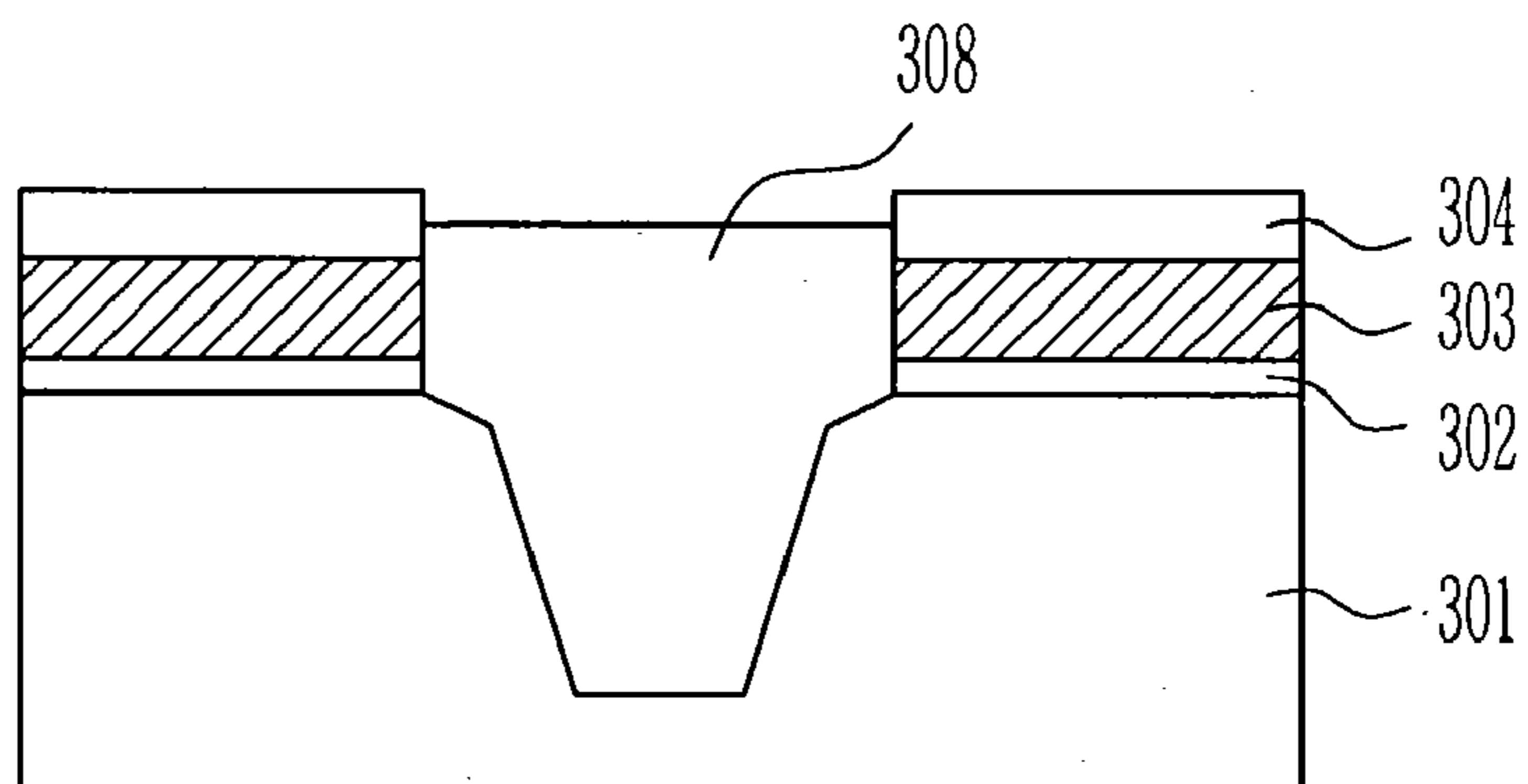


FIG. 3E

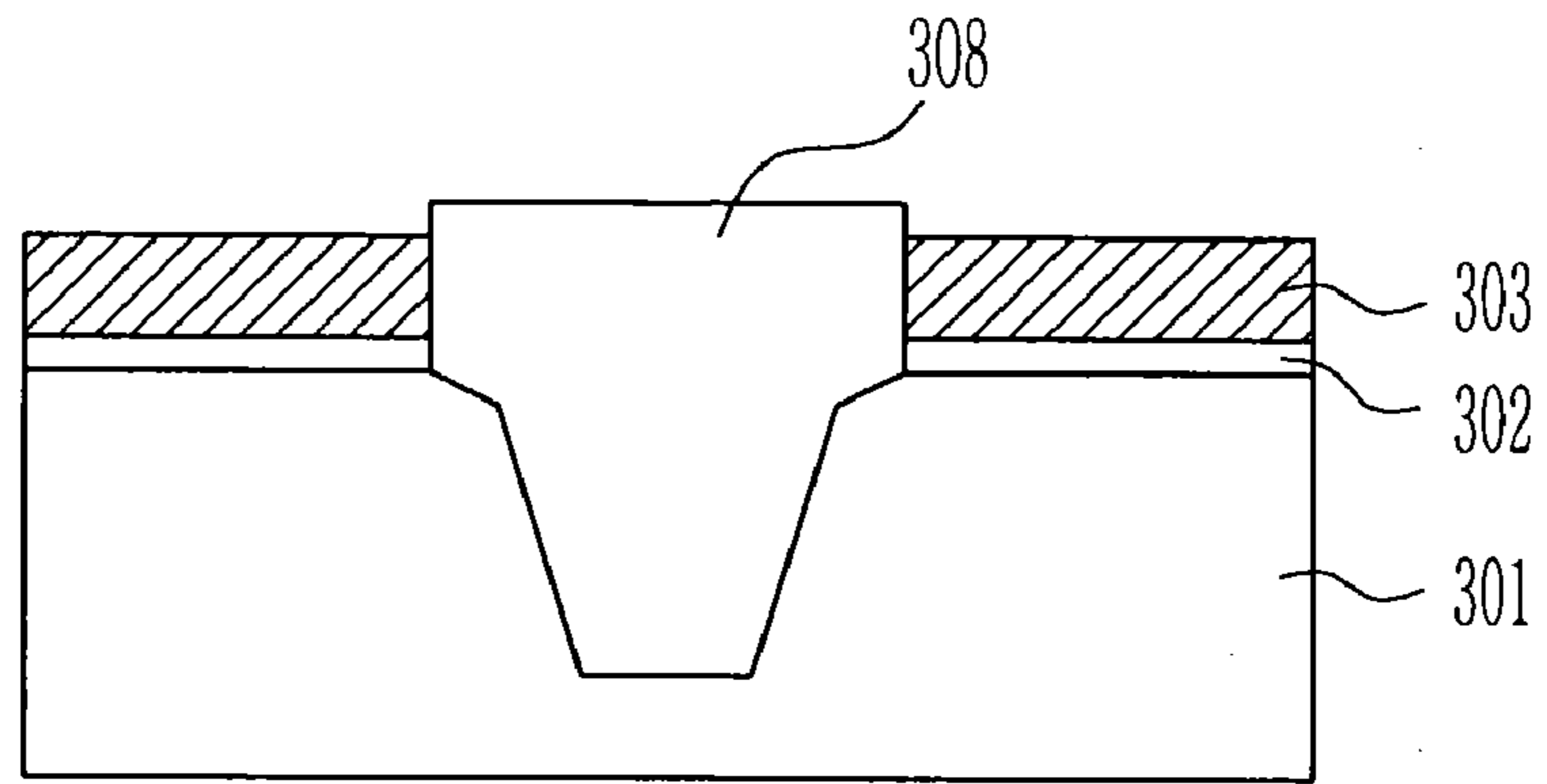


FIG. 3F

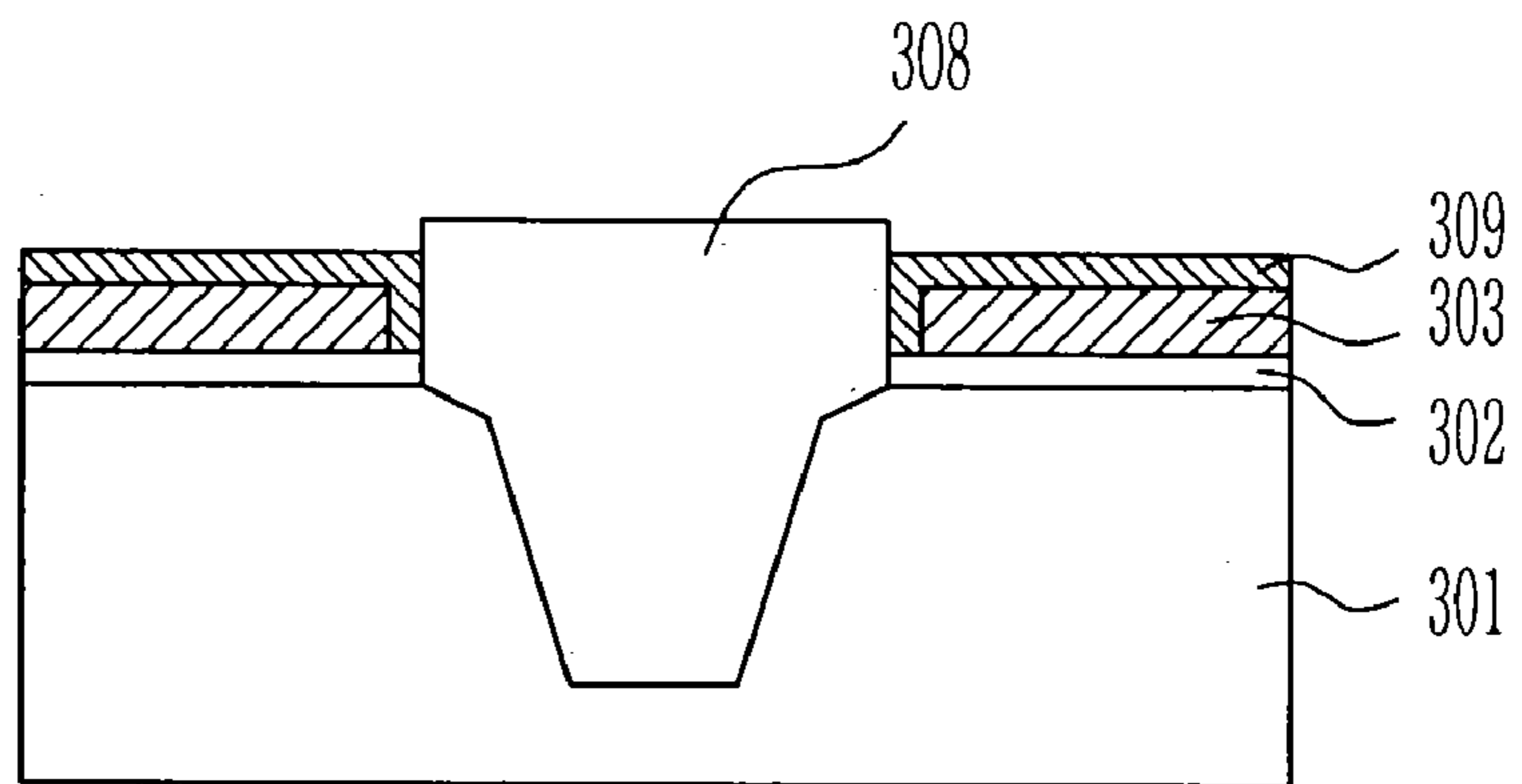


FIG. 3G

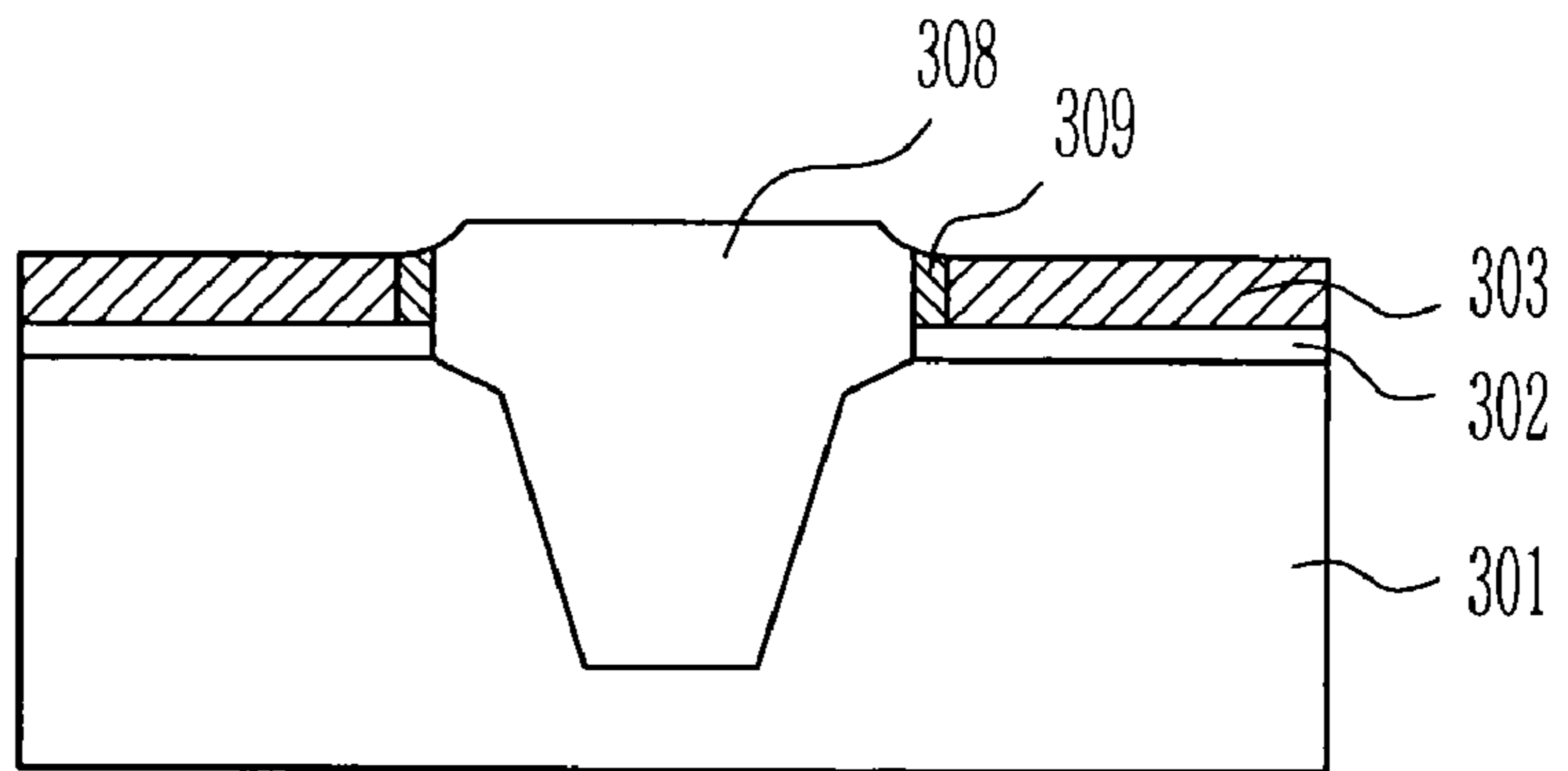
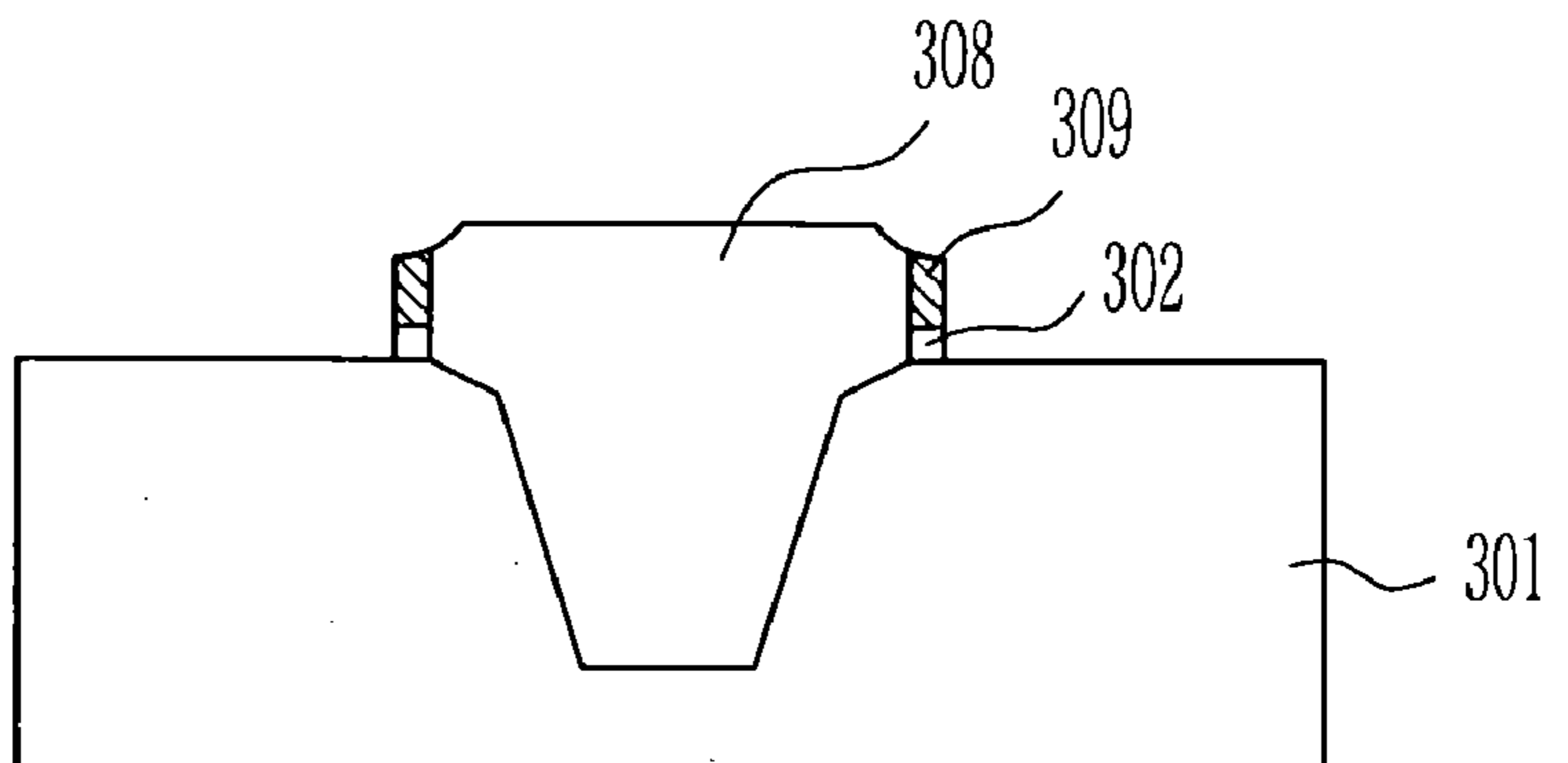


FIG. 3H



METHOD OF FORMING ISOLATION FILMS IN SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

A method for forming isolation films in semiconductor devices are disclosed, and more particularly, methods for forming isolation films in semiconductor devices are disclosed that are capable of preventing generation of undesirable moats and concentrations of electric fields at and on top corners of the isolation films that are formed by STI (shallow trench isolation) process.

2. Background of the Related Art

In general, the semiconductor substrate is divided into an active region where various semiconductor devices including transistors are formed, and an isolation region where an isolation film is located for electrically isolating the semiconductor devices of the active region.

A process of forming the isolation film includes a LOCOS (local oxidation) process, a PBL (poly buffered LOCOS) process and a STI (shallow trench isolation) process. The LOCOS process is one by which the pad oxide film and the pad nitride film are sequentially formed, the substrate of the isolation region is exposed by an etch process and the exposed region of the substrate is then oxidized by an oxidization process to form the isolation film. The PBL process is one of intervening a polysilicon film serving as a buffer between the pad oxide film of the LOCOS process and the pad nitride film. The STI process is one by which the pad oxide film and the pad nitride film are sequentially formed, the substrate of the isolation region is exposed by the etch process, the exposed region of the substrate is etched to form a trench and the trench is then buried with an insulating material to form the isolation film.

In the above, in the LOCOS process, a high temperature oxidization process is performed for a long period of time and a channel impediment ion implanted into the substrate is laterally diffused resulting in a "bird's beak" phenomena. As a result, the electrical characteristics of the device is degraded. Accordingly, the LOCOS process is not used for devices smaller than the 0.25 μm design rule.

In order to solve this problem of the LOCOS process, an isolation film may be formed using the STI process in the manufacture process of below the 0.25 μm design rule. In case where the isolation film is formed by the STI process, there are advantages that the bird's beak does not occur and the isolation characteristic is good.

However, there are problems in that the electrical characteristic of the device is degraded since an electric field is concentrated on the top corner and the bottom corner of the isolation film. Furthermore, as the design rule becomes small, there is a difficulty in burying the trench with an insulating material. Also, after an insulating material layer is formed on the entire structure in order to bury the trench with the insulating material, a polishing process such as a chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) process has to be performed in order to leave the insulating material only in the trench. Due to this, there are problems that the "Homp characteristic" is deteriorated and the uniformity of the substrate surface is degraded, since a moat structure is generated at the top corner of the isolation film.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of forming an isolation film in a semiconductor device is disclosed that is capable of improving the reliabil-

ity of the process and the electrical characteristic of the resulting device, in such a manner that a dual tilt angle is formed at the top corner of the trench in the process of forming the trench in order to prevent any concentration of an electric field and generation of a moat.

A disclosed method of forming an isolation film in a semiconductor device comprises forming a stack structure of a pad oxide film and a silicon containing photoresist pattern in which an isolation region is defined on a semiconductor substrate, implementing an over etch so that polymer is formed at both corners of the isolation region to form an etch slant face at both corners of the isolation region while etching the semiconductor substrate at the central portion of the isolation region, forming a trench at the central portion of the isolation region, oxidizing the surface of the photoresist pattern to form a surface oxide film, forming an insulating material layer on the entire structure to bury the trench, and implementing a polishing process until the photoresist pattern remains to a given thickness and then removing the photoresist pattern and the pad oxide film.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other features of the disclosed methods will be apparent from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1a through FIG. 1h are cross-sectional views of semiconductor devices for explaining a disclosed methods for forming an isolation film in a device according to one embodiment;

FIG. 2a through FIG. 2i are cross-sectional views of semiconductor devices for explaining a disclosed method of forming an isolation film in the device according to another embodiment; and

FIG. 3a through FIG. 3h are cross-sectional views of semiconductor devices for explaining a disclosed method of forming an isolation film in the device according to still another embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1a through FIG. 1h are cross-sectional views of semiconductor devices for explaining a method of forming an isolation film in the device according to one embodiment. Referring now to FIG. 1a, a pad oxide film **102** and a photoresist film **103** are sequentially formed on a semiconductor substrate **101**. At this time, the photoresist film **103** is formed in thickness in the range of 3000 to 10000 \AA using a photoresist comprising from about 7 to about 50% contained silicon.

By reference to FIG. 1b, the photoresist of the isolation region is removed by exposure and development process, thus forming a photoresist pattern **103** defined by the isolation region. After the photoresist pattern **103** is formed, the exposed pad oxide film **102** from which the photoresist is removed is removed by a dry etch process, so that the surface of the semiconductor substrate **101** in the isolation region is exposed.

Thereafter, an over etch process is implemented while polymer (not shown) is accumulated at the corner of the exposed semiconductor substrate **101**, whereby the central portion of the isolation region is more etched than the corner

portions of the isolation region to form an etch slant face **104** at the substrate **101** of the corner. At this time, the width and tilt angle of the etch slant face **104** formed at the corner of the isolation region could be adjusted considering the degree of integration in the device. Preferably, the width of the etch slant face **104** is made from about 0.02 μm to about 0.07 μm and the tilt angle of the etch slant face **104** is made from about 20 to about 50°.

This over etch is performed using a CHF_3 gas, a CF_4 gas or a mixed gas of them as an etch gas. At this time, the supply flow of CHF_3 ranges from 50 to 70 sccm, the supply flow of CF_4 is from about 30 to about 50 sccm and an Ar gas flow from about 1000 to about 2000 sccm is supplied as a carrier gas. Meanwhile, the over etch process is implemented for 5 to 30 seconds with a pressure from about 500 to about 2500 mTorr or power from about 600 to about 2000 W is applied. The over etch process is performed so that the central portion of the isolation region is etched from about 50 to about 400 Å.

With reference to FIG. 1c, the semiconductor substrate **101** of the isolation region is etched to a given depth to form a trench **105**. At this time, as polymer (not shown) accumulated on the etch slant face **104** of the isolation region serves as an anti-etch film upon implementation of the over etch process in FIG. 1b, the corners of the isolation region are not etched but the shape of the etch slant face **104** remains intact. Therefore, as only the central portion of the isolation region is etched, the trench **105** is formed at the central portion of the isolation region. Due to this, the top corner of the trench **105** is made round by the etch slant faces formed by the over etch process in FIG. 1b.

At this time, the etch process for forming the trench **105** is implemented to form the trench **105** in the range of from about 2500 to about 4000 Å in depth using a HBr gas and a Cl_2 gas and make the tilt angle of the sidewall of the trench **105** in the range of 70 to 90° on the basis of the surface of the semiconductor substrate **101**. The supply flow of the HBr gas is controlled to the range of from about 100 to about 150 sccm and the supply flow of the Cl_2 gas is controlled to the range of from about 35 to about 70 sccm.

After the trench **105** is formed, an ATC (after treatment chamber) process is performed for a time period ranging from 30 seconds to 1 minute to compensate for etch damage occurred at the sidewall and bottom of the trench **105**.

Turning to FIG. 1d, the surface of the photoresist pattern **103** containing silicon components is oxidized to form a surface oxide film **103a**. It should be noted that the surface oxide film **103a** might be formed by oxidizing the surface of the photoresist pattern **103** through O_2 plasma processing. The O_2 plasma processing method may include a method of implementing O_2 ashing at a temperature in the range of from about 50 to about 200° C., a method using O_2 ion implantation process.

Referring to FIG. 1e, an insulating film **106** is formed on the entire structure so that the trench **105** is completely buried. At this time, it should be noted that the insulating film **106** could be formed using a low thermal oxide film so that it does not have influence on the photoresist pattern **103**. The low thermal oxide film is formed at a temperature in the range of from about 50 to about 300° C. Meanwhile, the thickness of the insulating material layer **106** may be decided considering the margin of a chemical mechanical polishing process that will be performed in a subsequent process.

By reference to FIG. 1f, the top of the insulating material layer (**106** in FIG. 1e) is removed by a given thickness until the photoresist pattern **103** is exposed by means of a

polishing process such as the chemical mechanical polishing process. Thereby, the insulating material layer remains only in the trench, so that the isolation film **107** made of the insulating material layer is formed. At this time, as the height of the remaining photoresist pattern **103** determines the height of the isolation film **107** that is protruded higher than the surface of the semiconductor substrate **101**, the polishing process must be performed considering it.

Turning to FIG. 1g, the photoresist pattern (**10** in FIG. 1f) is removed by an ashing processing. Meanwhile, the pad oxide film (**102** in FIG. 1f) below the photoresist pattern is removed by a pre-cleaning process. Thereby, the isolation film **107** is completed.

From FIG. 1h, it can be seen that a moat did not occur even when the isolation film **107** is formed by the above process although both corner portions of the isolation film are etched by etch and cleaning processes being a subsequent process after the isolation film **107** is formed.

FIG. 2a through FIG. 2i are cross-sectional views of the semiconductor devices for explaining the disclosed method according to another embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 2a, a pad oxide film **202**, an amorphous silicon film **203**, an anti-reflection film **204** and a photoresist film **205** are sequentially formed on a semiconductor substrate **201**. In the above, the pad oxide film **202** is formed in thickness in the range of from about 50 to about 200 Å, the amorphous silicon film **203** is formed in thickness in the range of from about 1000 to about 3000 Å, the anti-reflection film **204** is formed in thickness in the range of from about 500 to about 800 Å and the photoresist film **205** is formed in thickness in the range of from about 3000 to about 10000 Å. At this time, the amorphous silicon film **203** is formed by a low pressure chemical vapor deposition (LP CVD) at a temperature in the range of from about 400 to about 600° C.

By reference to FIG. 2b, the photoresist film **205** and the anti-reflection film **204** of the isolation region are removed through exposure and development processes, thereby forming the photoresist pattern **205** and the anti-reflection film **204** in which the isolation region is defined. After the photoresist pattern **205** is formed, the amorphous silicon film **203** and the pad oxide film **202** that were exposed by the removed photoresist film and anti-reflection film are removed by a dry etch process, thus exposing the surface of the semiconductor substrate **201** of the isolation region. Thereafter, an over etch process is implemented while polymer (not shown) is accumulated at the corner of the exposed semiconductor substrate **201**, whereby the central portion of the isolation region is more etched than the corner portions of the isolation region to form an etch slant face **206** at the substrate **201** of the corner. At this time, the width and tilt angle of the etch slant face **206** formed at the corner of the isolation region could be adjusted considering the degree of integration in the device. Preferably, the width of the etch slant face **104** is made 0.02 μm to 0.07 μm and the tilt angle of the etch slant face **206** is made from 20 to 50°.

This over etch is performed using a CHF_3 gas, a CF_4 gas or a mixed gas of them as an etch gas. At this time, the supply flow of CHF_3 is 50 to 70 sccm, the supply flow of CF_4 is 30 to 50 sccm and an Ar gas of 1000 to 2000 sccm is supplied as a carrier gas. Meanwhile, the over etch process is implemented 5 to 30 seconds with a pressure of from about 500 to about 2500 mTorr or power of from about 600 to about 2000 W is applied. The over etch process is performed so that the central portion of the isolation region is etched to from about 50 to about 400 Å.

With reference to FIG. 2c, the semiconductor substrate **201** of the isolation region is etched to a given depth to form a trench **207**. At this time, as polymer (not shown) is accumulated on the etch slant face **206** of the isolation region serves as an anti-etch film upon implementation of the over etch process in FIG. 2b, the corners of the isolation region are not etched but the shape of the etch slant face **206** remains intact. Accordingly, as only the central portion of the isolation region is etched, the trench **207** is formed at the central portion of the isolation region. Due to this, the top corner of the trench **207** is made round by the etch slant faces formed by the over etch process in FIG. 2b.

At this time, the etch process for forming the trench **207** is implemented to form the trench **207** of from about 2500 to about 4000 Å in depth using a N₂ gas, an O₂ gas, a HBr gas and a Cl₂ gas at a pressure of from about 5 mTorr to about 30 mTorr with a top power of from about 350 to about 550 W and a bottom power of from about 100 to about 300 W applied thereto, and make the tilt angle of the sidewall of the trench **207** from about 70 to about 90° on the basis of the surface of the semiconductor substrate **201**. In the etch process, the supply flow of the N₂ gas is controlled to be from about 5 to about 20 sccm, the supply flow of the HBr gas is controlled to be from about 100 to about 150 sccm, the supply flow of the Cl₂ gas is controlled to be from about 35 to about 70 sccm and the supply flow of the O₂ gas is controlled to be from about 2 to about 20 sccm.

After the trench **207** is formed, an ATC (after treatment chamber) process is performed for 30 seconds to 1 minute to compensate for etch damage occurred at the sidewall and bottom of the trench **207**.

Turning to FIG. 2d, after the trench **207** is formed, the photoresist pattern (**205** in FIG. 2c) and the anti-reflection film (**204** in FIG. 2c) are removed. Thereby, the amorphous silicon layer **203** is exposed.

Referring to FIG. 2e, the sidewall and bottom of the trench **207** are oxidized by an oxidization process to form a surface oxide film **208a**. At this time, the oxidization process is implemented at a temperature in the range of from about 900 to about 1200° C. in a dry oxidization process so that the surface oxide film **208a** is formed in thickness of from about 50 to about 200 Å. By forming the surface oxide film **208a** at the sidewall and bottom of the trench **207** through the oxidization process, etch damage occurred in the course of forming the trench **207** is mitigated and the top corner and bottom corner of the trench **207** is made more round.

After the surface oxide film **208a** is formed on the surface of the trench **207**, the surface of the amorphous silicon layer **203** is oxidized to form a surface oxide film **208b**. It should be noted that the surface oxide film **208b** might be formed by oxidizing the surface of the amorphous silicon layer **203** by means of O₂ plasma processing. In the above, the O₂ plasma processing method may include a method of implementing O₂ ashing at a temperature in the range of from about 50 to about 200° C., a method using O₂ ion implantation process, and the like.

By reference to FIG. 2f, an insulating material layer **209** is formed on the entire structure so that the trench **207** is completely buried. At this time, the thickness of the insulating material layer **209** may be decided considering a margin of a chemical mechanical polishing process to be performed in a subsequent process. Preferably, the insulating material layer **209** may be formed with a thickness in the range of from about 4000 to about 6000 Å.

With reference to FIG. 2g, the top of the insulating material layer (**209** in FIG. 2f) is removed by a given thickness until the amorphous silicon layer **203** is exposed

by means of a polishing process such as the chemical mechanical polishing process. Thereby, the insulating material layer remains only in the trench, so that the isolation film **210** made of the insulating material layer is formed. At this time, as the height of the remaining amorphous silicon layer **203** determines the height of the isolation film **210** that is protruded higher than the surface of the semiconductor substrate **201**, the polishing process must be performed considering it.

Turning to FIG. 2h, the amorphous silicon layer (**203** in FIG. 2f) and the pad oxide film (**202** in FIG. 2f) are removed by a cleaning process. Thereby, only the isolation film **210** remains.

From FIG. 2i, it can be seen that a moat did not occur even when the isolation film **210** is formed by the above process although both corner portions of the isolation film are etched by etch and cleaning processes being a subsequent process after the isolation film **210** is formed.

FIG. 3a through FIG. 3h are cross-sectional views of the semiconductor devices for explaining the method of forming the isolation film in the device according to still another embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 3a, a pad oxide film **302**, an amorphous silicon film **303** and a hard mask film **304** are formed on a semiconductor substrate **301**.

A pre-treatment cleaning process is implemented using DHF (dilute HF) where a mixed ratio of H₂O and HF is about 50:1 and a SC-1 (standard cleaning-1) solution consisting of NH₄OH, H₂O₂ and H₂O, or BOE (buffered oxide etch) is used with a mixed ratio of NH₄F and HF is from about 100:1 to about 300:1. After the cleaning process, the pad oxide film **302** is formed in a thickness in the range of from about 50 to about 200 Å in a dry or wet oxidization mode. After the pad oxide film **302** is deposited, the crystal density at the interface between the pad oxide film **302** and the semiconductor substrate **301** could be minimized by implementing an annealing process using N₂ at a temperature in the range of 900 to 910° C. for a time period in the range of from about 20 to about 30 minutes.

An undoped amorphous silicon film of from about 1000 to about 2000 Å in thickness is deposited on the pad oxide film **302** at a temperature of from about 400 to about 600° C. and pressure of 0.1 to 3.0 torr by means of a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) method, a low pressure CVD (LPCVD) method, a plasma enhanced CVD (PECVD) method or an atmospheric pressure CVD (APCVD) method. As such, the grain size of the amorphous silicon film **303** is minimized and concentration of the electric field could be thus prevented. A nitride film having a thickness in the range of from about 1000 to about 2000 Å is deposited on the amorphous silicon film **303** by means of the LP-CVD method, thereby forming the hard mask film **304**.

Those having skill in the art will appreciate that the disclosed methods are not limited thereto and the above processes may be performed after ion implantation is performed. For example, a screen oxide film (not shown) serving as a buffer layer for prohibition of crystal defect on the surface of the substrate or surface processing and ion implantation is deposited. Ion implantation is then implemented to form an ion layer (not shown) for a well or VT control. After the screen oxide film is removed, the pad oxide film **302**, the amorphous silicon film **303** and the hard mask film **304** are deposited.

By reference to FIG. 3b, a photoresist pattern **305** for forming a trench for device isolation is formed. A n etch process using the photoresist pattern **305** as an etch mask is then implemented to sequentially etch the hard mask film

304, the amorphous silicon film **303** and the pad oxide film **302**, whereby the semiconductor substrate **301** is exposed.

In order to make a complementary corner portion of the trench formed round in a subsequent process, an excessive etch using a gas such as CF_4 and CHF_3 is implemented to remove a part of the semiconductor substrate **301**. As such, a polymer film **306** of a spacer shape is formed at the sidewall of the hard mask film **304**, the amorphous silicon film **303** and the pad oxide film **302**.

A photoresist film of from about 3000 to about 10000 Å in thickness is coated on the hard mask film **304**. A photolithography process using a mask for device isolation is then implemented to form the photoresist pattern **305**. Next, a dry etch process using the photoresist pattern **305** as an etch mask is performed to etch the hard mask film **304**, the amorphous silicon film **303** and the pad oxide film **302**.

An over etch using a fluorine series gas is implemented to etch the semiconductor substrate **301** of about 200 Å while forming the polymer film **306** of the spacer shape at the sidewall of the pad oxide film by polymer generated at that time. The over etch is implemented in a dry etch mode using a CHF_3 gas of 50 to 70 sccm, a CF_4 gas of from about 30 to about 50 sccm and an Ar gas of from about 1400 to about 1600 sccm at a pressure of from about 1400 to about 1600 mTorr under a power of 1100 to 1300 W, thus generating polymer of a large quantity. In the polymer film **306** of the sidewall spacer shape, a step between the pad oxide film **302** and the semiconductor substrate **301** is caused by an etch passivation effect due to the over etch. For this reason, the top corner of the trench for device isolation to be formed in a subsequent process becomes round. The shape of the round corner has a trench corner width of about 0.015 Å and an inclination of from about 20 to about 50°.

With reference to FIG. 3c, an etch process using the photoresist pattern **305** and the polymer film **306** of the spacer shape formed at the sidewall of the etched face as an etch mask is implemented to remove a part of the semiconductor substrate **301**, thereby forming a trench **307** of a STI structure. A dry oxidization process for compensating for etch damage of the sidewall of the trench **307** of the STI structure is then implemented to make round the corner portion of the trench **307**. Next, a high temperature oxide (HTO) is thinly deposited on the entire structure and a densification process at high temperature is then performed to form a liner oxide film (not shown). It should be noted that the dry oxidization process and the process of depositing the liner oxide film might be omitted for the purpose of simplifying the process.

The depth and inclination of the trench **307** could be adjusted by etching the semiconductor substrate **301** through the etch process of various mode. In a state that a pressure of 15 mTorr and a power of from about 450 W to about 200 W are applied, the trench **307** is formed using a N_2 gas of 10 sccm, a HBr gas of from about 100 to about 150 sccm, a Cl_2 gas of from about 35 to about 70 sccm and an O_2 gas of 8 sccm, wherein the trench **307** having a depth of from about 2500 to about 4000 Å and an inclination of from about 70 to about 90° is formed by controlling the flow and etch time of the gases. After the trench **307** is formed, an after treatment chamber (ATC) processing may be implemented in order to improve the roughness of the sidewall and bottom of the trench **307**. The shape of the trench **307** will be examined. The trench **307** is formed to have a shape of a dual inclination including an area of a given inclination at the top corner in the polymer film formation process and a side of a given inclination formed by patterning a portion of a subsequent semiconductor substrate **301**.

A photoresist strip process is implemented to remove the photoresist pattern **305** formed on the hard mask film **304** and the polymer film **306** of the spacer shape.

Turning to FIG. 3d, a field oxide film **308** of from about 4000 to about 6000 Å in thickness is deposited on the entire structure in which the trench **307** is formed, considering a margin of a subsequent polishing process, wherein the field oxide film **308** is buried so that an empty spacer is not formed within the trench **207**. A polishing process is then performed. At this time, the polishing process is implemented with chemical mechanical polishing using the hard mask film **304** as a stop layer. Furthermore, the height of the field oxide film **309** could be controlled by adjusting a polishing target of the polishing process.

Referring to FIG. 3e and FIG. 3f, a nitride film strip process using a phosphoric acid (H_3PO_4) solution is implemented to remove the hard mask film **304**. The field oxide film **309** is protruded higher than the amorphous silicon film **303** due to removal of the hard mask film **304**. A portion of the amorphous silicon film **303** is oxidized through the O_2 plasma processing to form a silicon oxide film **309** on the top and sidewall of the amorphous silicon film **303**.

The O_2 plasma processing is implemented to oxidize the surface of the amorphous silicon film **303** using a plasma ashing method and an O_2 ion implantation method having a temperature range of from about 50 to about 200° C. Thereby, the amorphous silicon film **303** at the sidewall of the field oxide film **308** is oxidized and the oxidized silicon oxide film **309** and the field oxide film **308** are fused, so that the isolation film region is expanded. The O_2 ion implantation method is rotated four times from 0 to 30° and implants O_2 ion at the dose of from about $1\text{E}14$ to about $1\text{E}16$ atoms/ cm^2 . The plasma ashing method is implemented using an O_2 gas of about 1500 sccm at a pressure of about 800 mTorr, a power of about 1500 W and a temperature of about 110° C. At this time, oxidization of the amorphous silicon film **303** could be controlled by variously changing the power, pressure and flow of the gas. Furthermore, oxidization of the amorphous silicon film **303** could be controlled using time setting or important factors.

By reference to FIG. 3g and FIG. 3h, a wet or dry etch process is implemented to remove the oxide film **309** formed on the amorphous silicon film **303**. The amorphous silicon film **303** and the pad oxide film **302**, which remain on the semiconductor substrate, are then removed.

The etch process is implemented to etch the oxide film **309** on the amorphous silicon film **303** using a target that stops etching until the amorphous silicon film **303** that is not oxidized through the O_2 plasma oxidization process is exposed. A wet etch process using a nitride acid (HNO_3) aqueous solution is then implemented to etch the amorphous silicon film **303**. Next, a cleaning process is implemented to etch the pad oxide film **302**, whereby the isolation film protruded up to the active region is formed. The isolation film is formed to have a shape in which the inside of the trench **307** is completely buried with the field oxide film **308** and portions of the silicon oxide film **309** and the pad oxide film **302** remain on the active region. The field oxide film **308** formed through the present embodiment is formed higher than the active region and widely up to the active region. Accordingly, the moat does not occur although both the corners are excessively etched.

As described above, the surface oxide film formed on the photoresist pattern is fused with the insulating film or the surface oxide film formed on the amorphous silicon layer is fused with the insulating material layer. The width of the top of the isolation film is thus widened up to the top of the

active region in the semiconductor substrate while keeping the width of the trench intact. Therefore, the disclosed materials have new effects that they can prevent a Homp characteristic since a moat is not generated although both corners of the isolation film are excessively etched and prevent degradation in characteristic of the semiconductor device such as subthreshold of the semiconductor device. Furthermore, the disclosed methods have advantageous effects that they can prevent concentration of an electric field on the top corner of the trench by forming a dual slant angle by forming the etch slant face at the top corner of the trench and improve the roughness of the sidewall and bottom of the trench through an ATC processing.

The forgoing embodiments are merely exemplary and are not to be construed as limiting as present teachings can be readily applied to other types of apparatuses. The description of the disclosed methods is intended to be illustrative, and not to limit the scope of the claims. Many alternatives, modifications, and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

What is claimed are:

1. A method of forming an isolation film in a semiconductor device, comprising:

forming a stack structure of a pad oxide film and a photoresist pattern on a semiconductor substrate on which an isolation region is defined, the isolation region having one or more comers and a central portion, the photoresist pattern containing silicon;

implementing an over etch so that polymer is formed at the corners of the isolation region to form an etch slant face at one or more corners of the isolation region while etching the semiconductor substrate at the central portion of the isolation region;

forming a trench at the central portion of the isolation region;

oxidizing a surface of the photoresist pattern to form a surface oxide film;

forming an insulating material layer on the entire structure to bury the trench; and

implementing a polishing process until the photoresist pattern has a given thickness and then removing the photoresist pattern and the pad oxide film.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount of silicon contained in the photoresist pattern is in the range of from about 7 to about 50%.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the over etch process uses a CHF_3 gas, a CF_4 gas or a mixture thereof as an etch gas to etch the central portion of the isolation region in depth an amount ranging from about 50 to about 400 Å.

4. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein a supply flow of CHF_3 is from about 50 to about 70 sccm, the supply flow of CF_4 is from about 30 to about 50 sccm and an Ar gas flow of from about 1000 to about 2000 sccm is supplied as a carrier gas.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the over etch process is implemented for a time period from about 5 to about 30 seconds with a pressure of from about 500 to about 2500 mTorr and a power of from about 600 to about 2000 W is applied.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a width of the etch slant face is from about 0.02 μm to about 0.07 μm and a tilt angle of the sidewall of the etch slant face is from about 20 to about 50°.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface oxide film is formed by means of an O_2 plasma processing.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the O_2 plasma processing is implemented at a temperature ranging from about 50 to about 200° C. by means of an O_2 ashing process or an O_2 ion implantation process.

9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulating material layer is formed using a low thermal oxide film at a temperature ranging from about 50 to about 300° C.

10. A method of forming an isolation film in a semiconductor device, comprising the steps of:

forming a stack structure of a pad oxide film, an amorphous silicon layer, an anti-reflection film and a photoresist pattern on a semiconductor substrate on which an isolation region and an active region are is defined; implementing an over etch so that polymer is formed at a corner of the isolation region to form an etch slant face at the corner of the isolation region while etching the semiconductor substrate at the central portion of the isolation region;

forming a trench at the central portion of the isolation region;

removing the photoresist pattern and the anti-reflection film;

oxidizing the surface of the amorphous silicon layer to form a surface oxide film;

forming an insulating material layer on the entire structure to bury a the trench; and

implementing a polishing process until the insulating material layer is at a given thickness and then removing the amorphous silicon layer and the pad oxide film, thereby forming an isolation film, wherein the top surface of the isolation film protrudes higher than the active region of the semiconductor substrate.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the over etch process uses a CHF_3 gas, a CF_4 gas or a mixed gas of them as an etch gas to etch to a depth of about 50 Å to about 400 Å.

12. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the width of the etch slant face ranges from about 0.02μm to about 0.07μm, and the tilt angle of the etch slant face ranges from about from 20° to about 50°.

13. The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of oxidizing the sidewall and bottom of the trench to form a surface oxide film at the sidewall and bottom of the trench before the surface of the amorphous silicon layer is oxidized and after the anti-reflection film is removed.

14. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the surface oxide film is formed by means of an O_2 plasma process.

15. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the O_2 plasma process is implemented at a temperature ranging from about 50° C. to about 200° C. by means of an O_2 ashing process or an O_2 ion implantation process.

16. A method of forming an isolation film in a semiconductor device, comprising the steps of:

stacking a pad oxide film, an amorphous silicon layer, a hard mask film, and a photoresist pattern on a semiconductor substrate on which an isolation region and an active region are defined;

implementing an over etch so that polymer is formed at a corner of the isolation region to form an etch slant face at the corner of the isolation region while etching the semiconductor substrate at the central portion of the isolation region;

etching a part of the semiconductor substrate using the polymer as an etch mask to form a trench at the central portion of the isolation region;

burying the trench with an insulating film and then removing the polymer and the hard mask film;

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implementing an O₂ plasma oxidization process to oxidize the top and sidewall of the amorphous silicon layer, thus forming an oxide film on the top and sidewall of the amorphous silicon layer;

etching the oxide film on the top of the amorphous silicon layer; and

etching the amorphous silicon layer and the pad oxide film below the oxide film on the side of the amorphous silicon layer, thereby forming an isolation film, wherein the top surface of the isolation film protrudes higher than the active region of the semiconductor substrate.

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17. The method as claimed in claim **16**, wherein the O₂ plasma oxidization process implemented to oxidize the top and sidewall of the amorphous silicon layer uses a plasma ashing method and an O₂ ion implantation method having a temperature ranging from about 50° C. to about 200° C.

18. The method as claimed in claim **16**, wherein the polymer is formed by etching about 200Å of the semiconductor substrate using a gas such as CF₄ and CHF₃.

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